

# Realizing the Vision of Zero Software Defects

## Systems & Software Technology Conference Tutorial

Jay Abraham

[jay.abraham@mathworks.com](mailto:jay.abraham@mathworks.com)

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# Tutorial Agenda

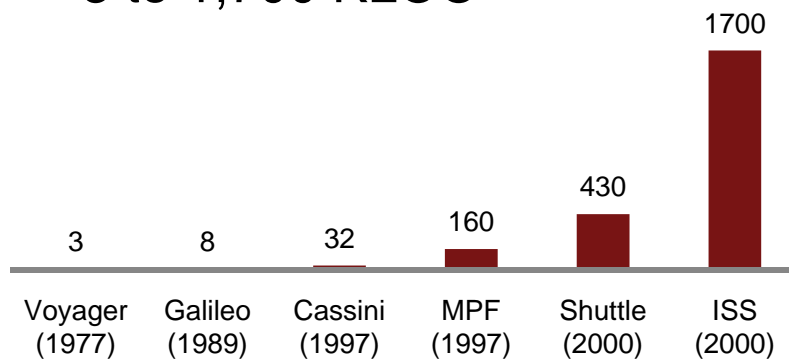
- Complexity of Systems
  - Failures and their cause
- Implementation and Verification
  - Developing robust systems
- Model and Code Verification
  - Addressing design and code errors
- Practical Considerations
  - Implementing and verifying complex systems
- Additional Techniques for Improving Software Quality
  - Addressing standards and other considerations

# Complexity of Systems

**Failures and their cause**

# Complexity of Systems

- Modern automotive powertrain
  - 500 to 1,000 thousands lines of code (KLOC)
- Boeing 787 flight control system
  - 6,500 KLOC
- Software in spacecraft\*
  - 3 to 1,700 KLOC



\*Automated Software Verification & Validation: An emerging approach for ground operations  
Bell and Brat, NASA

# Complex Systems Fail

- Ariane-5, expendable launch system
  - Overflow error
  - Resulted in destruction of the launch vehicle
- USS Yorktown, Ticonderoga class ship
  - Divide by zero error
  - Caused ship's propulsion system to fail
- Therac-25, radiation therapy machine
  - Race condition and overflow error
  - Casualties due to overdosing of patients



# Cost of Failure – Aerospace Examples\*

System	Cost	Reason
Ariane 5 (1996)	\$594M	Overflow software error
Delta III (1998)	\$336M	SW did not account for normal roll oscillation
Titan IV B (1999)	\$1.5B	Wrong decimal point in SW (const -0.19.. vs. -1.99..)
Mars Climate Orbiter (1999)	\$524M	Wrong units
Zenit 3SL (2000)	\$367M	Premature 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage shutdown
Messenger (2004)	\$24M	SW test related delays resulting in data loss

\*Automated Software Verification & Validation: An emerging approach for ground operations  
Bell and Brat, NASA

# Why Do Complex Systems Fail?\*

- Insufficient specification
- Design errors
- Software coding errors
- Mechanical failure
- Deliberate interference
- Human errors

# Scope of Tutorial

- Insufficient specification

- Design errors
- Software coding errors

← Embedded Software

- Mechanical failure
- Deliberate interference
- Human errors

# Design Errors

- Poorly designed software
  - That may or may not adhere to specifications
- Avoiding design errors
  - Not easy, issues may not be detected
  - With non-exhaustive testing or simulation methods
- Effects include
  - Software crashes
  - Unexpected software behavior

# Design Error Examples

- Dead logic
- Unreachable states
- Deadlock conditions
- Non-deterministic behavior
- Exception conditions

- Overflow
- Divide by zero
- And lots more ...

# Software Code Errors

- Coding defects
  - Resulting in run-time errors
- What are run-time errors
  - Also known as “latent faults”
  - Rarely manifest and are infrequent
- Effects include
  - Software crashes
  - Unexpected software behavior

# Run-Time Error Examples

- Non-initialized data
- Out of bound array access
- Null pointer dereference
- Incorrect computation
- Concurrent access to shared data

- Illegal type conversion
- Dead code
- Overflows
- Non-terminating loops
- And lots more ...

# The Vision of Zero Defect Software

- Is it possible?
- Yes, but with some caveats
- Is it applicable to all types of software?
- No, and that's OK
- So when does it make sense to invest time, energy, and effort to create zero defect s/w ...

# Constraining the Problem

- When does software quality truly matter
  - Human lives at risk
  - Missions that cannot fail
  - Business operations that cannot suffer downtime
- Computer devices
  - High integrity embedded systems
  - Examples: flight control, braking systems, remote cellular base stations, ...

# Introduction to High Integrity Embedded Systems

- General embedded systems
  - Software world-wide increasing 10% to 20% per year
  - Embedded microprocessors account >98%
- High integrity systems found in
  - Aircraft, automobiles, medical devices
  - Safety and reliability are paramount
- Software algorithms contain
  - Complex controls algorithms
  - Computations in fixed point and floating point
  - Logic, state based machine algorithms
  - Multi-threaded code execution



# Challenges in High Integrity\*

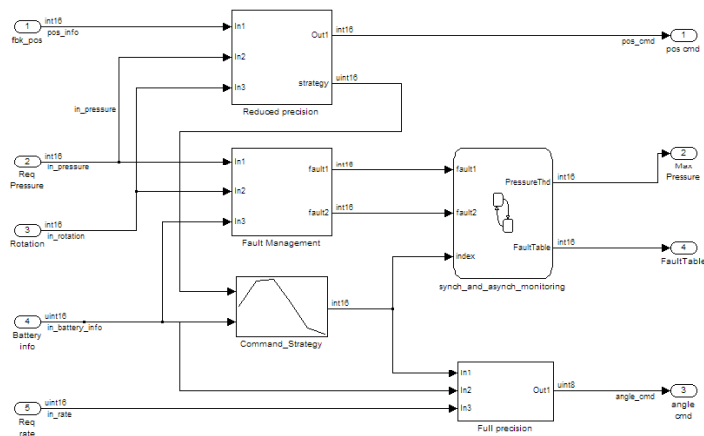
- Strong correlation between application size and the total number of defects
  - Estimated 30 defects per 1000 lines of code
  - 20% will be severe
  - Defects must be found and removed
- Time and resources allocated to finding and fixing software defects
  - Most expensive aspect of software development

\* Embedded software: facts, figures, and future  
Ebert And Jones, IEEE Computer 2009

# Implementation and Verification of Complex Systems

**Implementing and Verifying Complex Embedded Software Systems**

# Software for an Engine Controller



Complex Algorithm

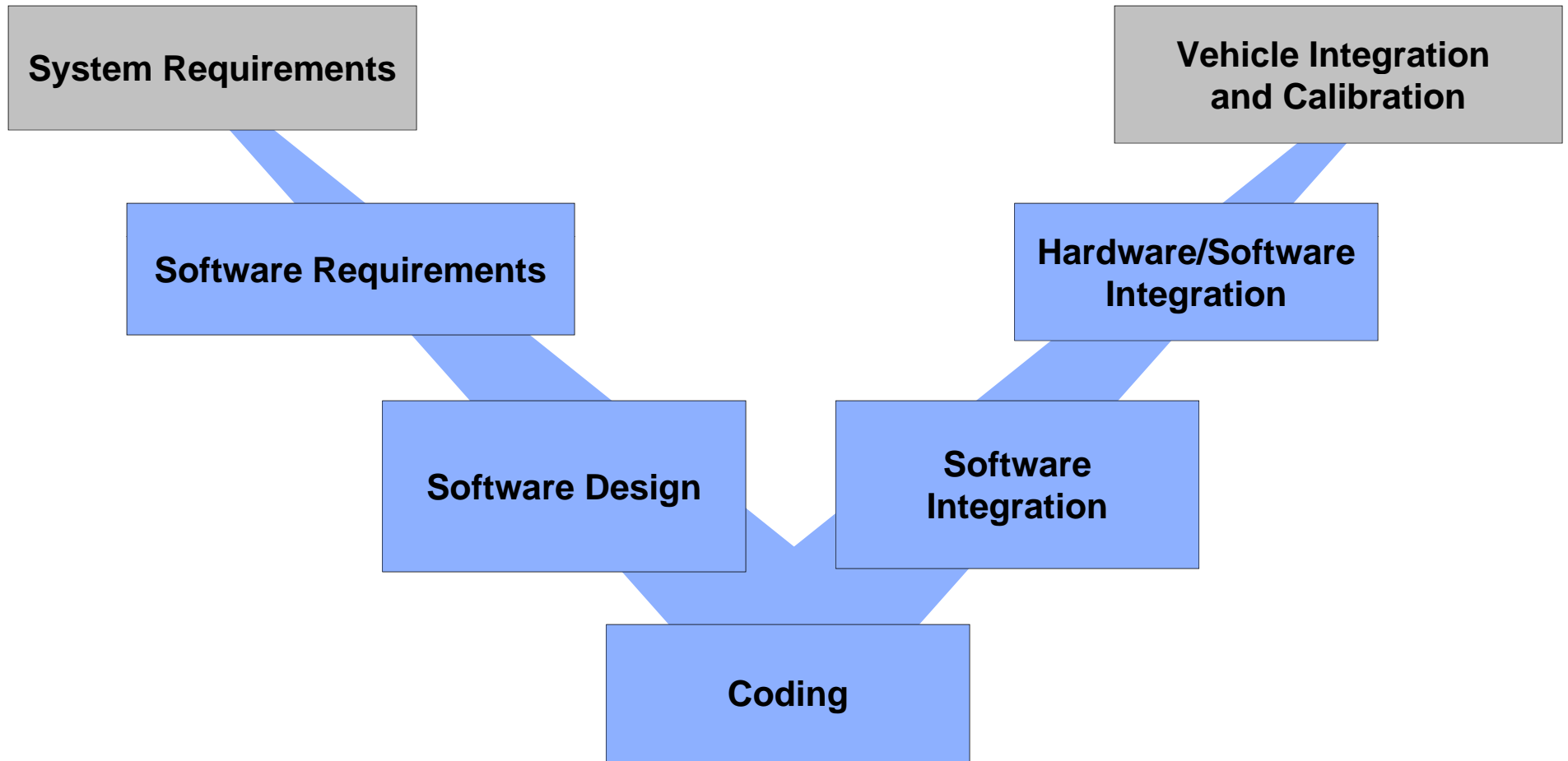


Embedded Controller

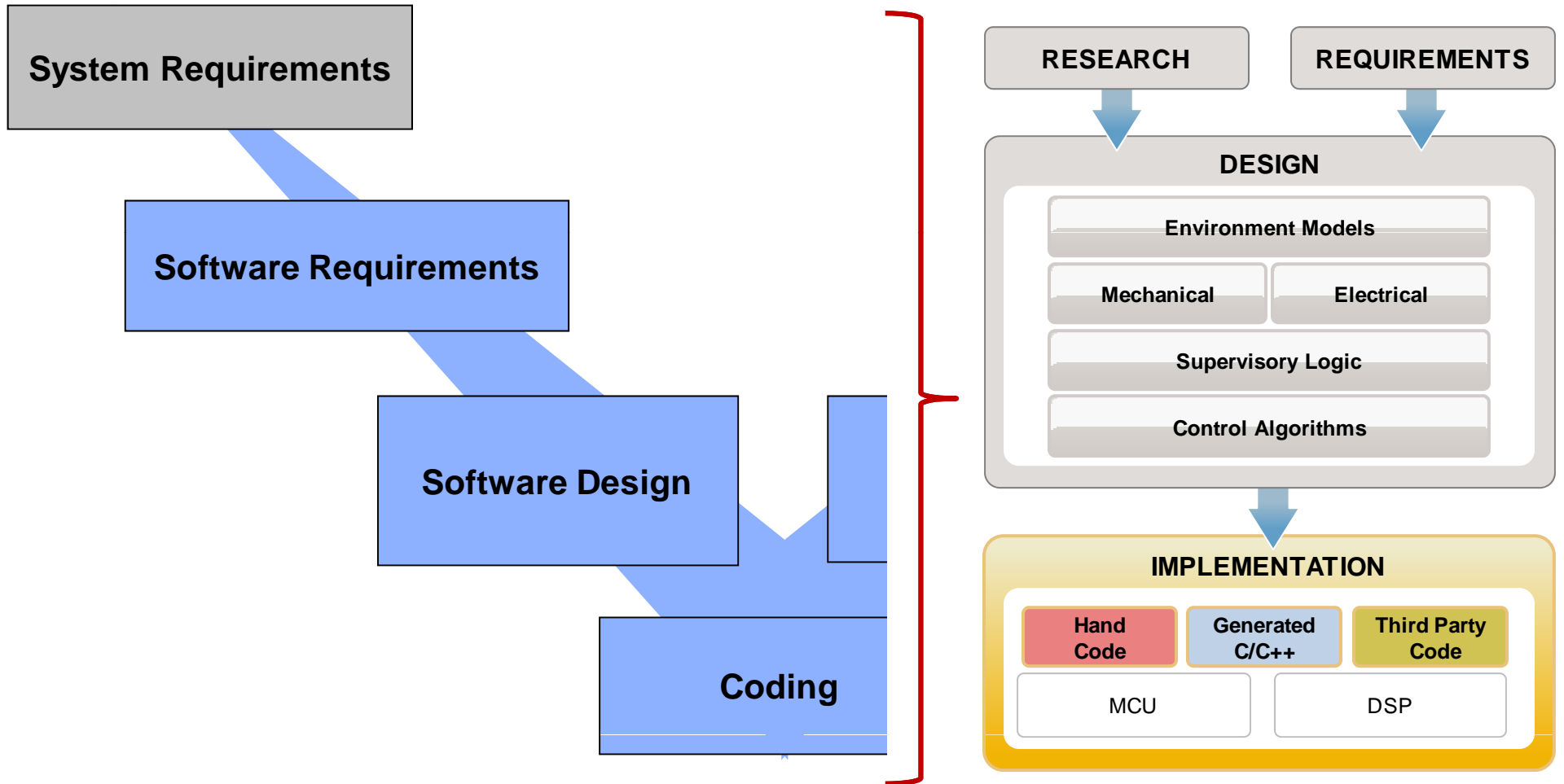
Aircraft Engine



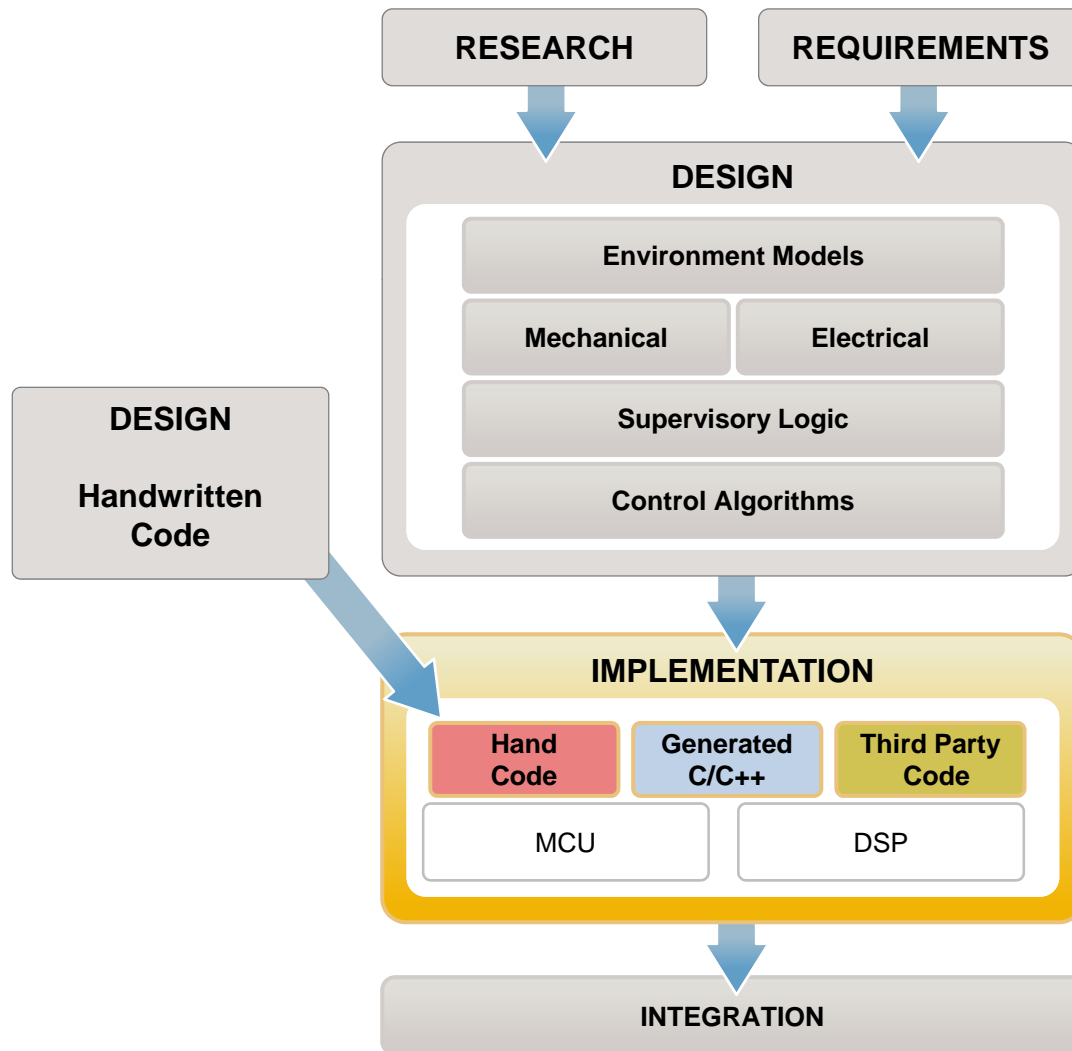
# Design Implementation and Verification



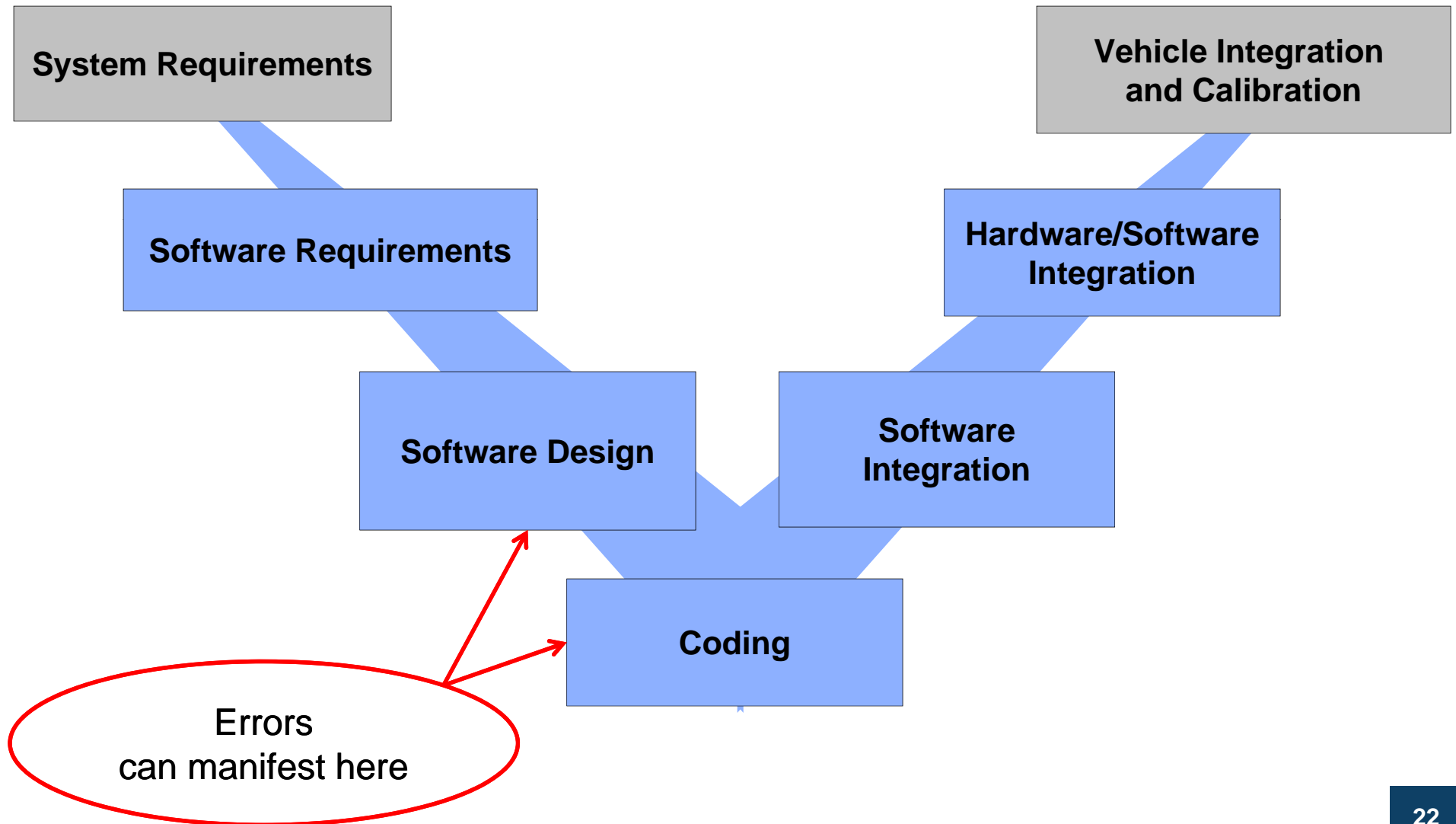
# Design Implementation



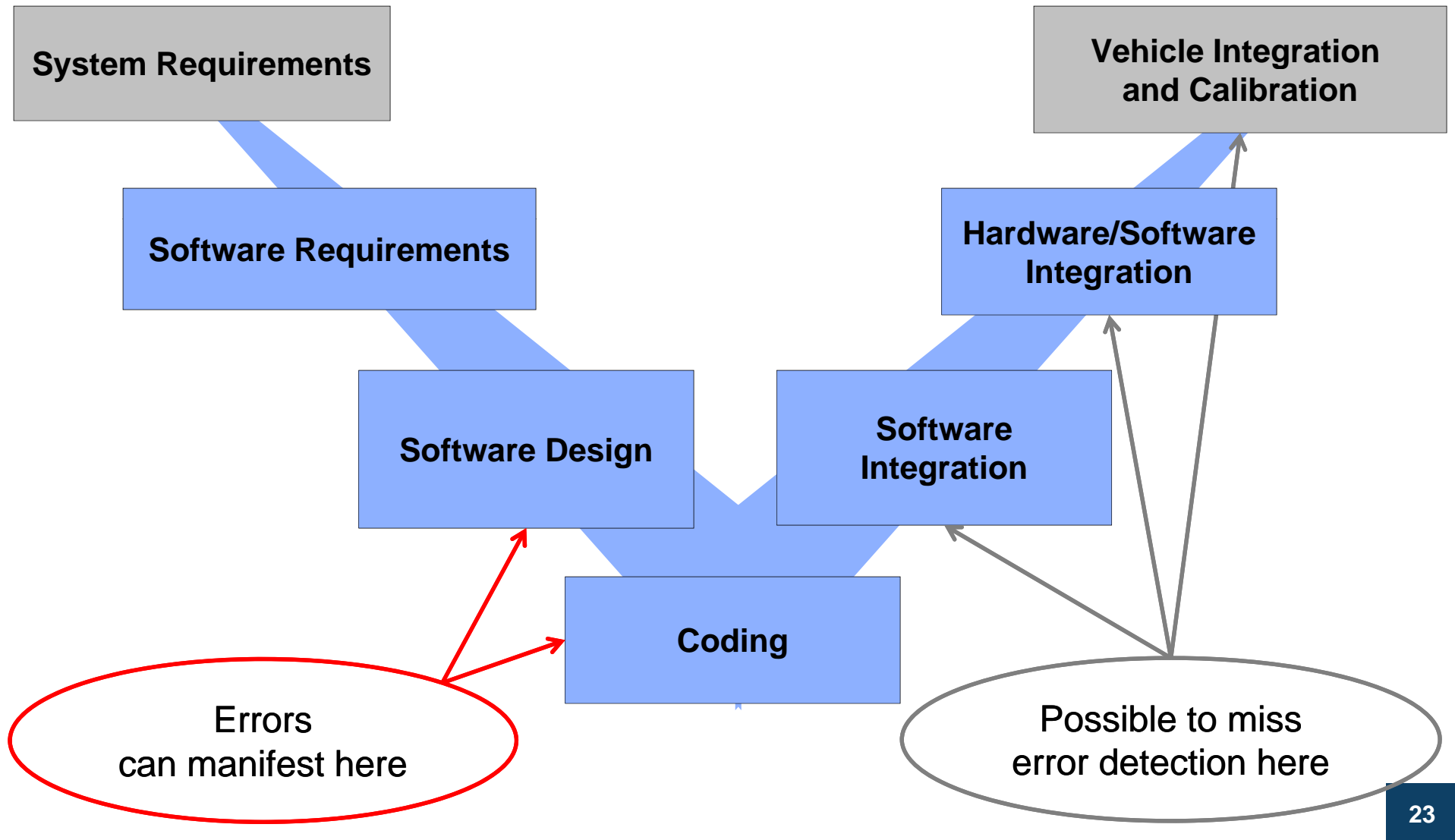
# Design Implementation with Model Based Design (MBD)



# Design & Code Error Manifestation



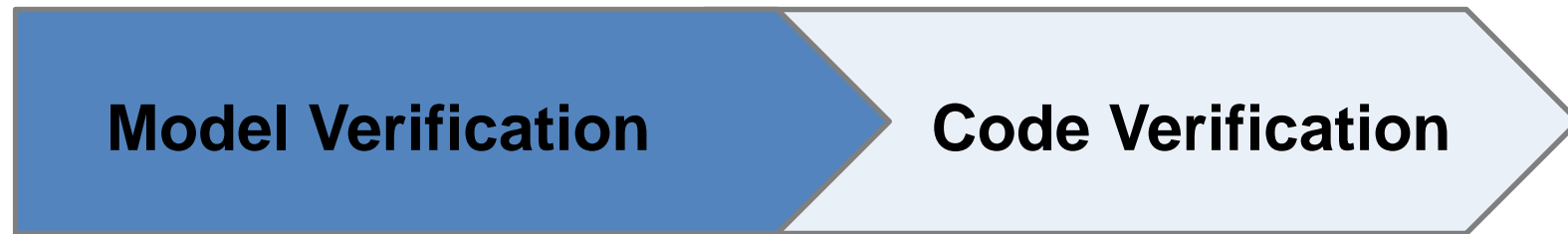
# Design & Code Error Detection



# Model and Code Verification

**Addressing design and code errors**

# Solving the Problem with Model and Code Verification



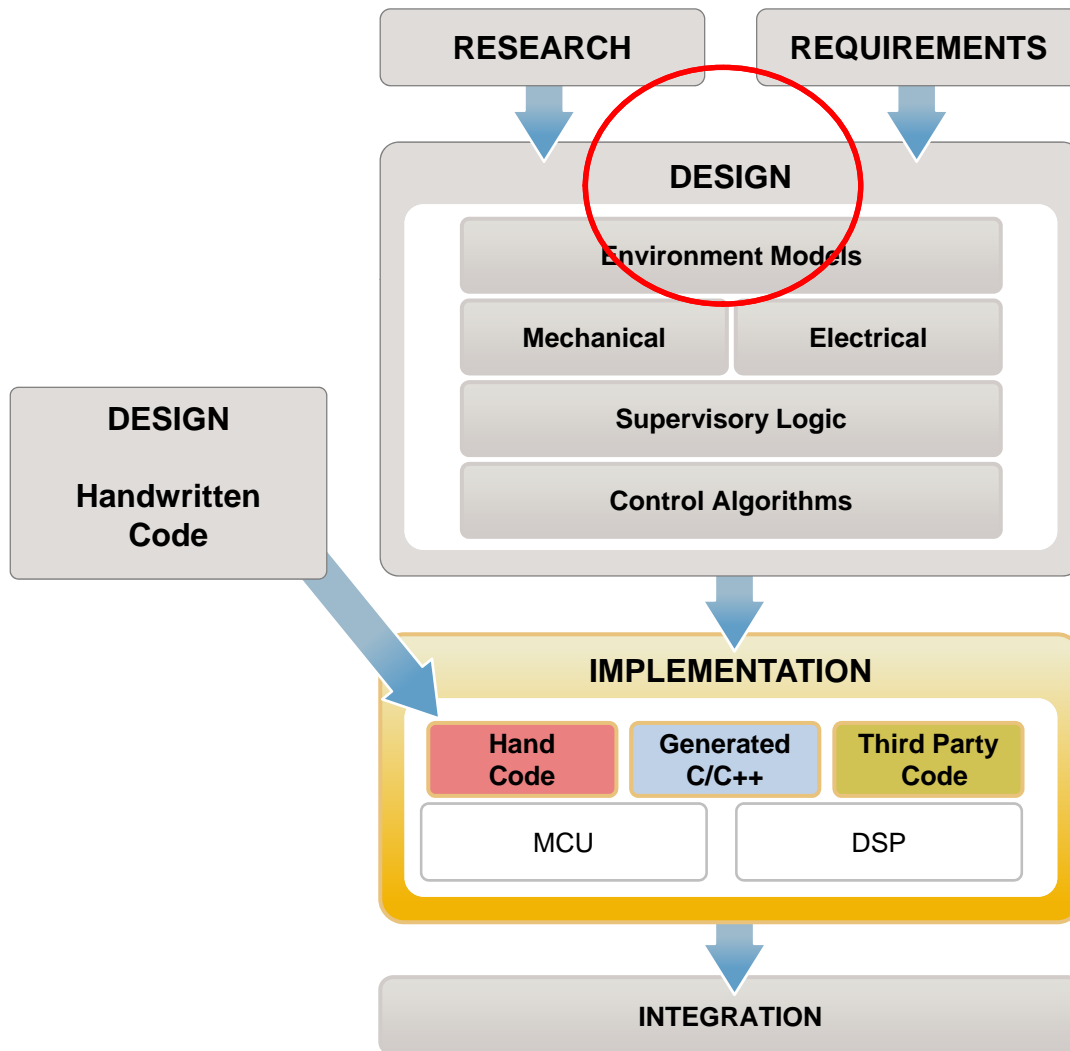
- ▶ Detect and fix design errors

- ▶ *Robust Design*

- ▶ Detect and fix code errors

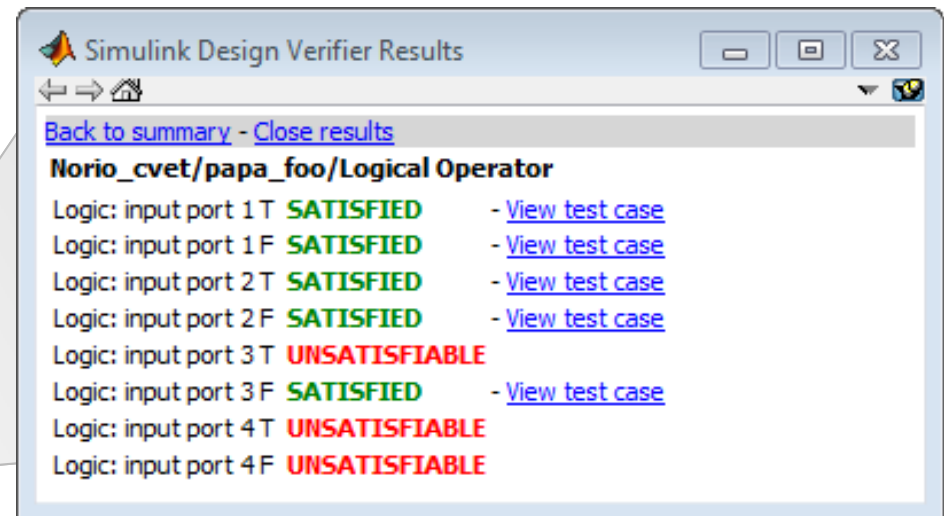
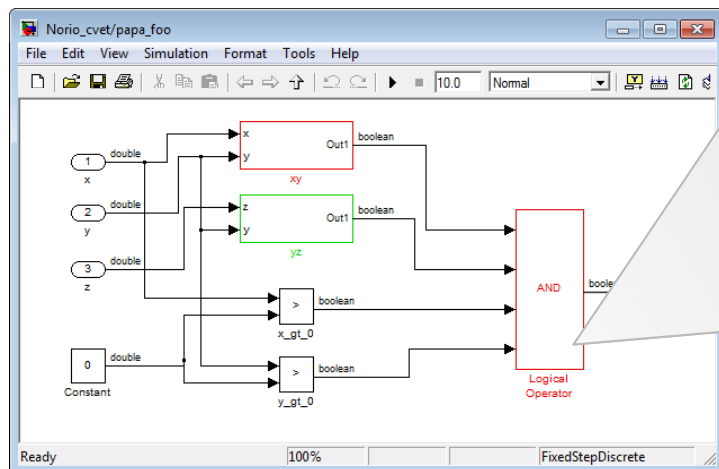
- ▶ *Robust Code*

# Design Error Detection in MBD



# Process of Design Error Detection in MBD

- Verify design at the model level (*model verification*)
  - Identify issues such as dead logic
- Exhaustively verify design
  - Using formal methods



# Formal Methods

- Mathematical based techniques for
  - Specification, development and verification of software
- Proof based verification
  - Formally prove attributes of a system
  - Results are considered “*sound*”
- Example techniques
  - Model checking for exhaustive search for all states
  - Abstract interpretation for semantic analysis of programs

# Introduction to Abstract Interpretation

- Formal methods based verification
  - Solution that can be applied to software programs
- What is Abstract Interpretation?
  - Consider the multiplication of three large integers

$$-4586 \times 34985 \times 2389 = ?$$

# Application of Abstract Interpretation

- Abstract result of computation to sign domain
  - Could be positive or negative
  - Sign of the computation will be negative
- Determining sign
  - An application of Abstract Interpretation
- Technique enables precise knowledge of some properties
  - The sign, without having to multiply integers fully
  - Sign will never be positive for this computation
- Abstract Interpretation is **sound** and **exhaustively proves**
  - That sign of the operation will always be negative
  - And never positive

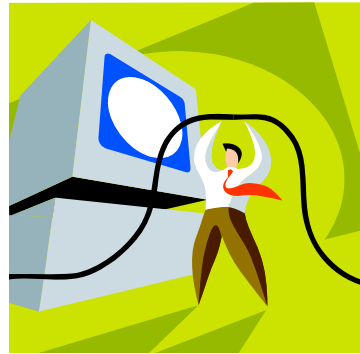
# Verification Tools that Implement Model Checking and Abstract Interpretation

Verification Tools	Reference
<u>ImProve</u> for building high assurance embedded applications	Tom Hawkins
<u>UPPAAL</u> for modeling, validation and verification of real-time systems	Aalborg University
<u>Stacktool</u> for stack overflow checking of embedded software	University of Utah
<u>DAEDALUS</u> for validating critical software	European IST Programme
<i>And many others ...</i>	<i>Search engines, Wikipedia, ....</i>

## In this tutorial ...

- We use MathWorks verification tools to demonstrate examples of applying formal methods
- To demonstrate how one can attempt to achieve zero defect software
- Applicable to any tool or product that implements formal methods

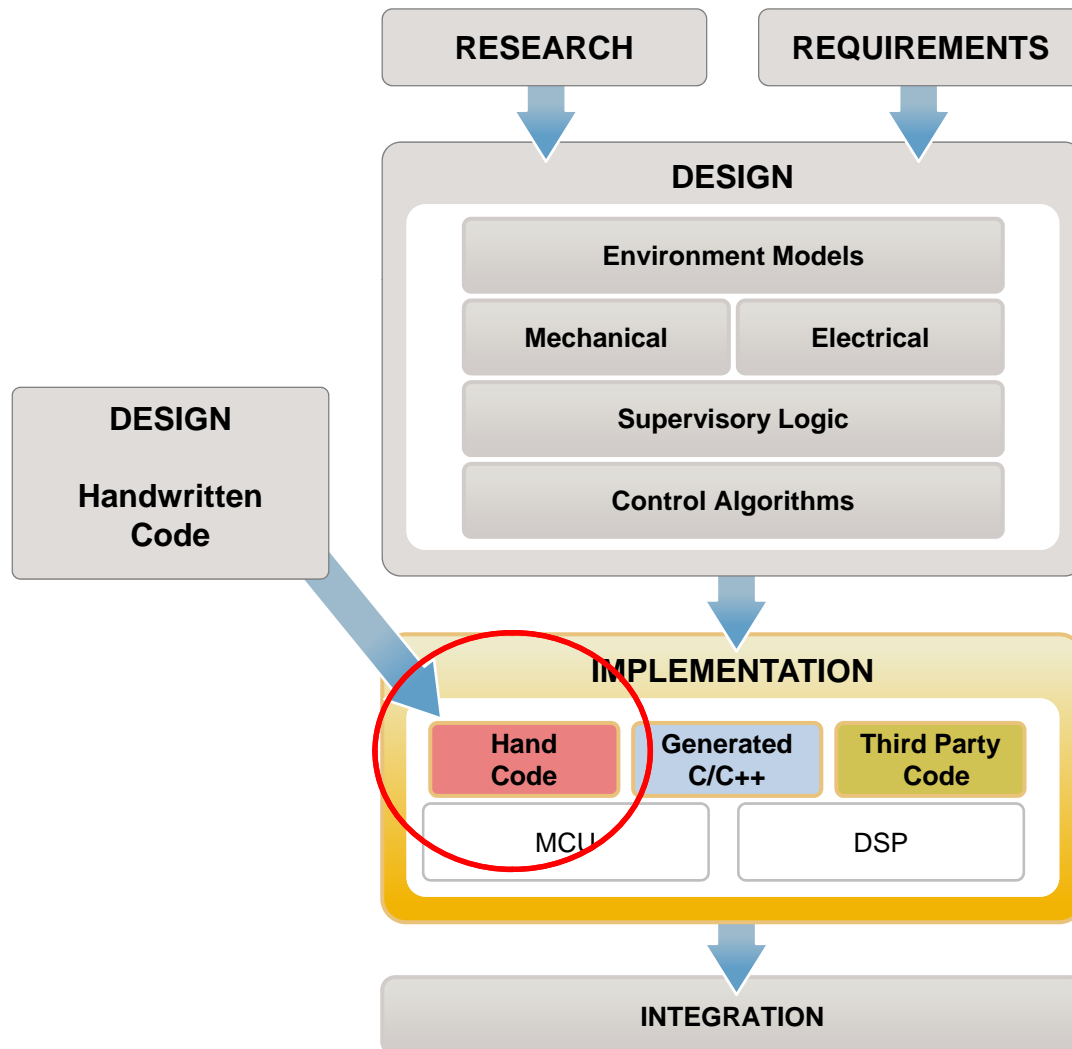
# Confirming sound design



Tutorial Demo

- Design verification of a model

# Verification of Handwritten Code



# Typical Methods of Software Verification and Testing

- Code reviews
  - Fagan inspections to reduce coding errors
  - Process needs to be complemented with other methods
- Dynamic test
  - Validate that software meets requirements
  - Verify the execution flow of software, often on the target

# When Are You Done?

- Dijkstra
  - “Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence”
- Hailpern
  - “Given that we cannot really show there are no more errors in the program, when do we stop testing?”

# Find the Run-Time Error in *new\_position()*

```
1  int new_position(int sensor_pos1, int sensor_pos2)
2  {
3      int actuator_position;
4      int x, y, tmp_pos, magnitude;
5
6      actuator_position = 2; /* default */
7      tmp_pos = 0;           /* values */
8      magnitude = sensor_pos1 / 100;
9      y = magnitude + 5;
10     x = actuator_position;
11
12     while (actuator_position < 10)
13     {
14         actuator_position++;
15         tmp_pos += sensor_pos2 / 100;
16         y += 3;
17     }
18     if ((3*magnitude + 100) > 43)
19     {
20         magnitude++;
21         x = actuator_position;
22         actuator_position = x / (x - y);
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24     return actuator_position + tmp_pos; /* new value */
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## Consider the operation: $x / (x - y)$

### Potential run-time errors

- Variables  $x$  and  $y$  may not be initialized
- An overflow on subtraction
- If  $x == y$ , then a divide by zero will occur

How to prove that run-time errors do or do not exist?

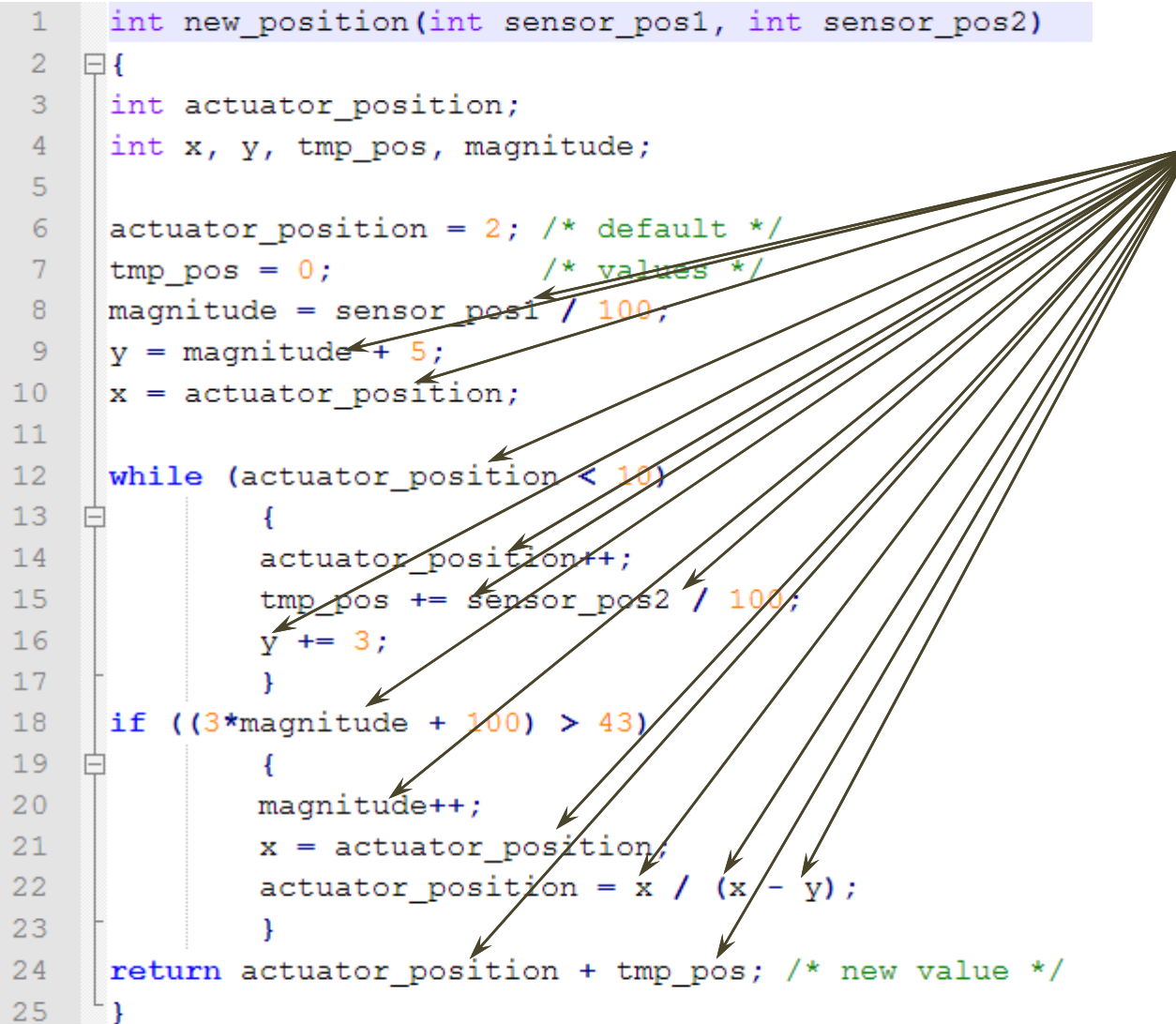
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Variables may not  
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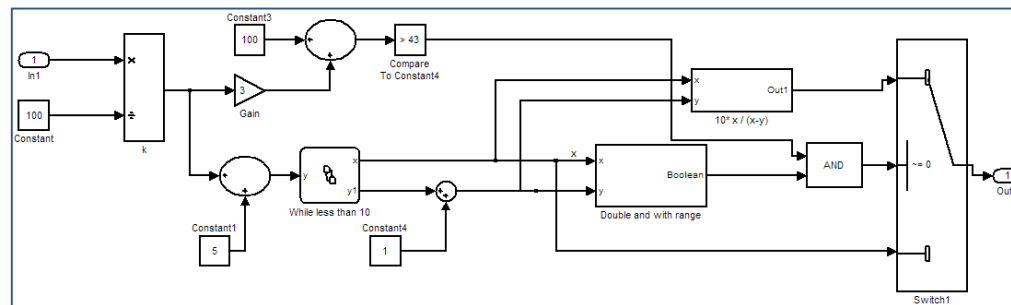
Division by  
zero potential

# Code Review and Dynamic Test

- Code review results
  - Initially identified potential divide by zero condition
  - Deeper review shows potential overflow and initialization issues
- Next step is to Test
  - Validate that code written to meet requirements
  - Verify that the code is robust and will not fail

# Requirements Specification

- Compute new position of control arm based on 2 position sensors
- Implement algorithm as modeled in the Simulink modeling environment



- Return value of new position shall be within  $\pm 2^{28}$

# Dynamic Test with a Test-Harness

```
3  /******  
4  * test harness to validate function new_position()  
5  *****/  
6  main (void) {  
7      int x, i, j;  
8  
9      /******  
10     * Requirement spec states that:  $-2^{28} < \text{result} < 2^{28}$   
11     * Inputs to function: can be full range (signed 32 bit target)  
12     *****/  
13  
14     /******  
15     * Exhaustive testing not possible, so lets check for -100 to 100  
16     * and a few other spot checks  
17     *****/  
18  
19     /* Try -100..100 X -100..100 */  
20     for (i = -100; i < 101; i++ )  
21     {  
22         for (j = -100; j < 101; j++ )  
23         {  
24             x = new_position(i, j);  
25             if ((x > -268435456) && (x < 268435456))  
26             {  
27                 printf ("PASS: i=%d, j=%d, x=%d\n", i, j, x);
```

# Exhaustive Testing of *new\_position()*

- Both inputs are signed int32
  - Full range inputs:  $-2^{31}-1 \dots +2^{31}-1$
  - All combinations of two inputs:  $4.61 \times 10^{18}$  test-cases
- Test time on a Windows host machine
  - 2.2GHz T7500 Intel processor
  - 4 million test-cases took 9.284 seconds
  - Exhaustive testing time: **339,413 years**

Exhaustive Testing is Impossible

# How to Increase Confidence?

- Could do more spot testing
  - But it is still not exhaustive
- Add defensive code (*if  $x \neq y$  ...*)
  - This will protect against divide by zero!
  - But adds more code and execution overhead
  - What about other potential errors like overflow?
- Wish that the code will not fail
  - Is that a good strategy ...
- What about static code analysis tools?
  - Compiler warnings and more sophisticated tools

# Introduction to Static Code Analysis

- Scanning source code to automate software verification
- Range from ***unsound*** methods to ***sound*** techniques

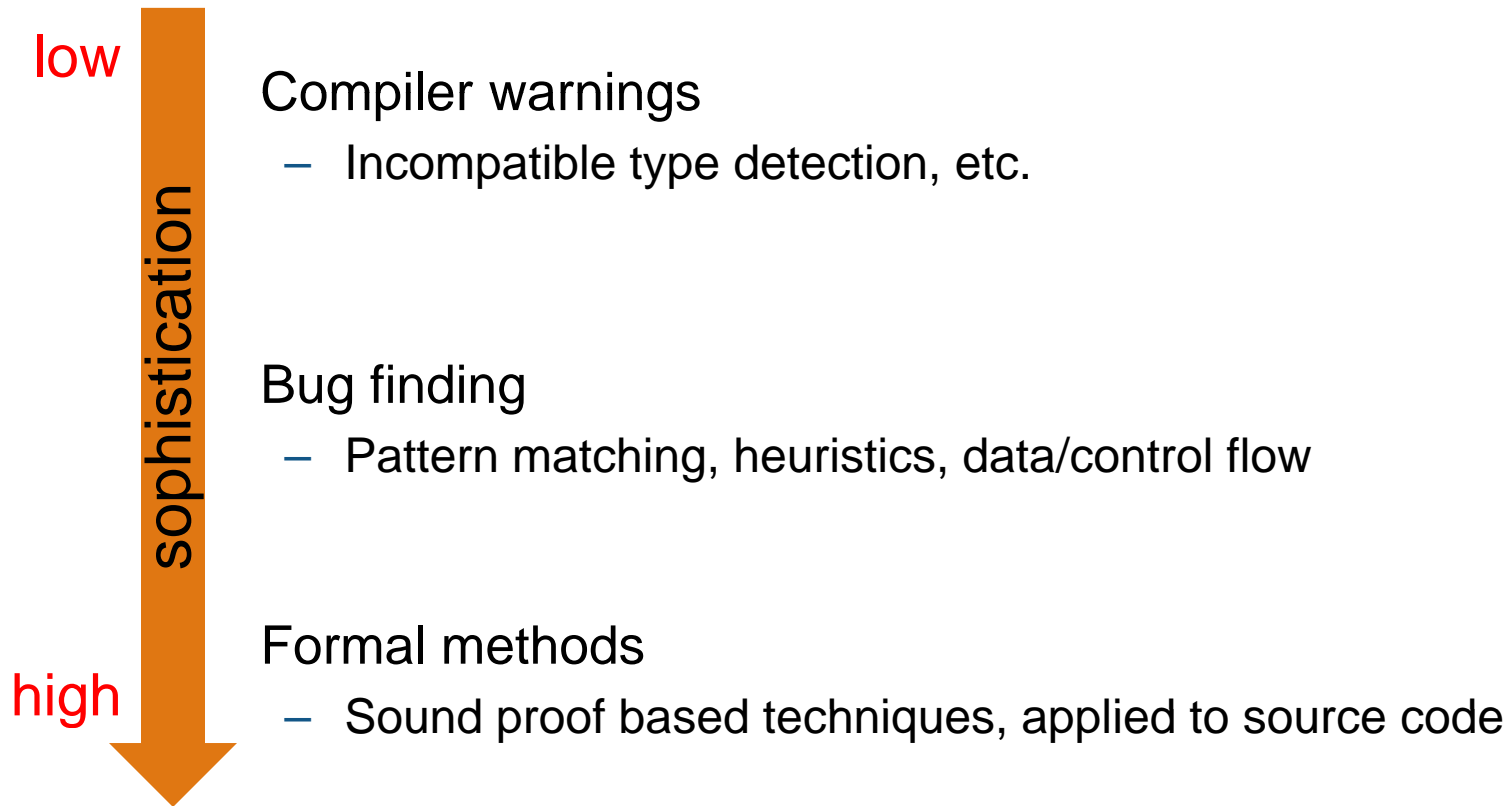
# Introduction to Static Code Analysis

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# Introduction to Static Code Analysis

- Scanning source code to automate software verification
- Range from ***unsound*** methods to ***sound*** techniques



# Compiler Warning Example

```
1 void Arg_f(float *y);  
2  
3 void Arg_f(float *y)  
4 {  
5     *y=12.0;  
6 }  
7  
8 void WrongArg(void)  
9 {  
10     volatile int r=0;  
11  
12     Arg_f(&r);  
13     r = 1/(1-r);  
14 }
```

# Compiler Warning Example

```
1 void Arg_f(float *y);  
2  
3 void Arg_f(float *y)  
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5     *y=12.0;  
6 }  
7  
8 void WrongArg(void)  
9 {  
10     volatile int r=0;  
11  
12     Arg_f(&r);  
13     r = 1/(1-r);  
14 }
```

```
$ gcc -c -Wall src.c  
src.c: In function `WrongArg':  
src.c:12: warning: passing arg 1 of `Arg_f' from incompatible pointer type  
$
```

# Compiler Warnings for *new\_position()*


```
1 int new_position(int sensor_pos1, int sensor_pos2)
2 {
3     int actuator_position;
4     int x, y, tmp_pos, magnitude;
5
6     actuator_position = 2; /* default */
7     tmp_pos = 0;           /* values */
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12    while (actuator_position < 10)
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```

```
$ gcc -c -Wall where_are_errors.c
$
```

# Static Analysis with Splint (*splint.org*)



## Splint

Annotation-Assisted Lightweight Static Checking  
[Inexpensive Program Analysis Group](#)  
[University of Virginia, Department of Computer Science](#)


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*Secure Programming Lint*  
*SPecifications Lint*  
First Aid for Programmers

Splint is a tool for statically checking C programs for security vulnerabilities and coding mistakes. With minimal effort, Splint can be used as a better lint. If additional effort is invested adding annotations to programs, Splint can perform stronger checking than can be done by any standard lint.

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```
$ splint -strict where_are_errors.c
Splint 3.1.1 --- 09 Aug 2007

where_are_errors.c:1:5: Function new_position declared but not used
  A function is declared but not used. Use /*@unused@*/ in front of function
  header to suppress message. (Use -fcnuse to inhibit warning)
  where_are_errors.c:25:1: Definition of new_position
where_are_errors.c:1:5: Function new_position exported but not declared in
                        header file
  A declaration is exported, but does not appear in a header file. (Use
  -exporthead to inhibit warning)
  where_are_errors.c:25:1: Definition of new_position

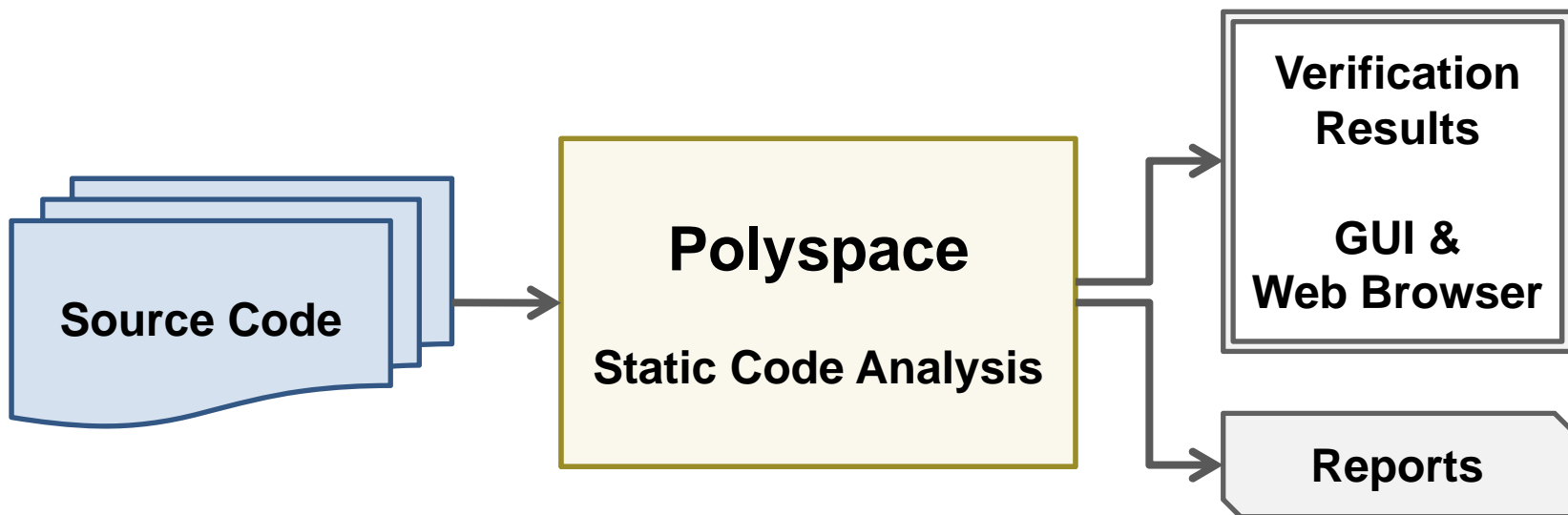
Finished checking --- 2 code warnings
$
```

# Verification Results on *new\_position()*

<i>Required Checks</i>		
Activity	Comments	Status
Code Review	Identified potential non-initialized variables, overflows, and divide by zero	Further examination required
Dynamic Test	Test to requirements	Pass
<i>Additional Confidence Checks</i>		
Activity	Comments	Status
Compiler warnings	None	No issues
Static Code Analysis	Splint with -strict	No issues
Formal methods		

# Formal Methods Based Static Code Analysis

- Detects and proves the absence of certain run-time errors
- Operates at source code level



# Polyspace Static Code Analysis Results

**Green: reliable**  
safe pointer access

**Red: faulty**  
out of bounds error

**Gray: dead**  
unreachable code

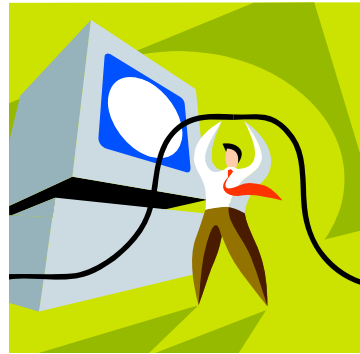
**Orange: unproven**  
may be unsafe for some  
conditions

```
static void pointer_arithmetic (void) {  
    int array[100];  
    int *p = array;  
    int i;  
  
    for (i = 0; i < 100; i++) {  
        *p = 0;  
        p++;  
    }  
  
    if (get_bus_status() > 0) {  
        if (get_oil_pressure() > 0) {  
            *p = 5;  
        } else {  
            i++;  
        }  
    }  
  
    i = get_bus_status();  
  
    if (i >= 0) {  
        *(p - i) = 10;  
    }  
}
```

## Returning to our Example *new\_position()*

```
1  int new_position(int sensor_pos1, int sensor_pos2)
2  {
3      int actuator_position;
4      int x, y, tmp_pos, magnitude;
5
6      actuator_position = 2; /* default */
7      tmp_pos = 0;           /* values */
8      magnitude = sensor_pos1 / 100;
9      y = magnitude + 5;
10     x = actuator_position;
11
12     while (actuator_position < 10)
13     {
14         actuator_position++;
15         tmp_pos += sensor_pos2 / 100;
16         y += 3;
17     }
18     if ((3*magnitude + 100) > 43)
19     {
20         magnitude++;
21         x = actuator_position;
22         actuator_position = x / (x - y);
23     }
24     return actuator_position + tmp_pos; /* new value */
25 }
```

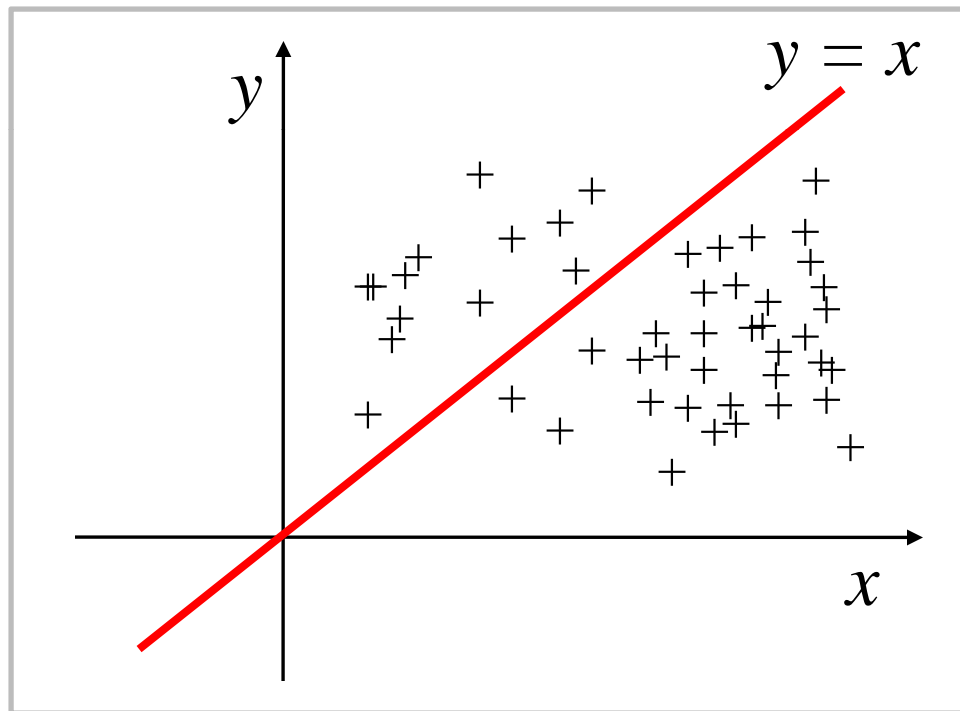
# Polyspace Results on *new\_position()*



Tutorial Demo

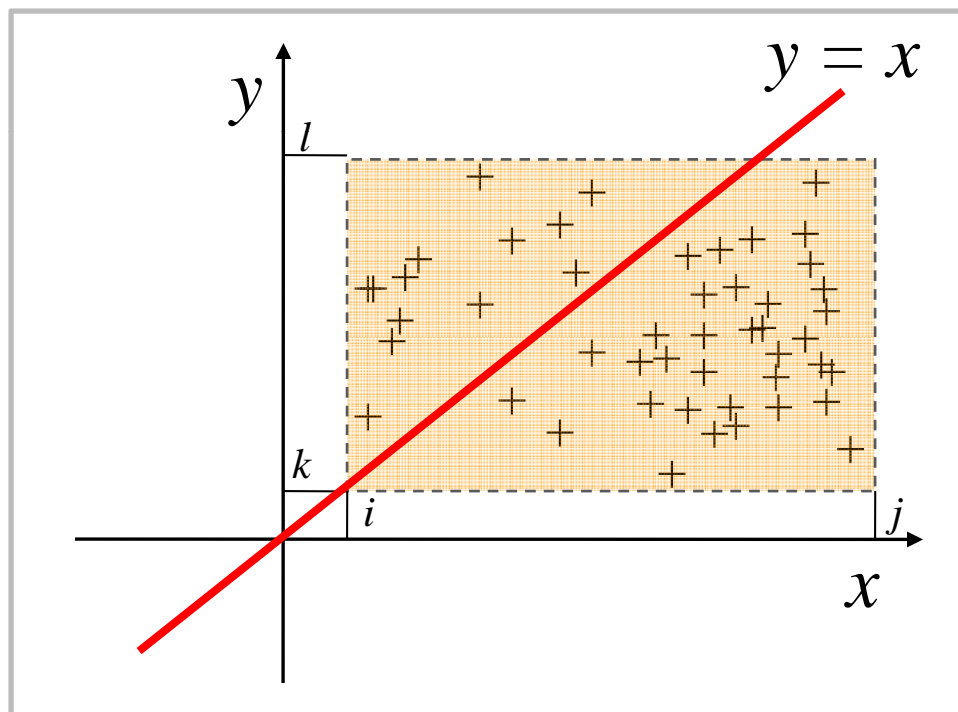
- Verification results for *new\_position()*
- Results for *new\_position()* with added protection

## How to Prove $x \neq y$ for $x/(x-y)$



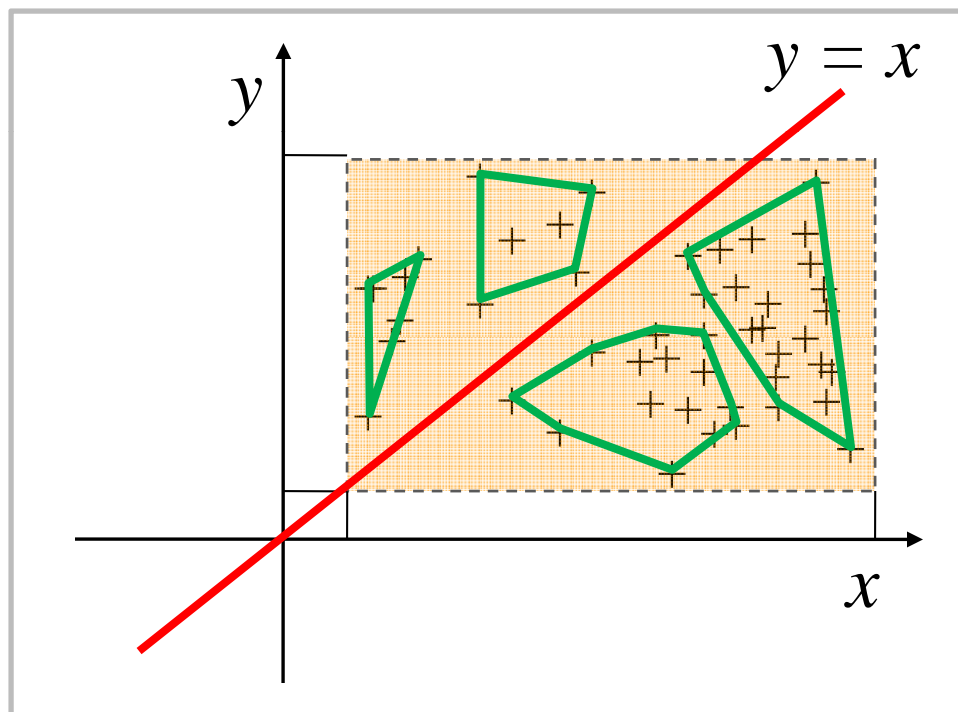
# How to Prove $x \neq y$ for $x/(x-y)$

Type Analysis (bounding conditions)



# How to Prove $x \neq y$ for $x/(x-y)$

With Abstract Interpretation

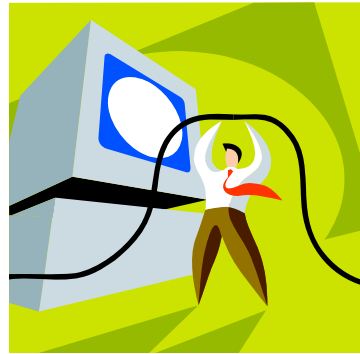


- No code execution
- No test-cases
- Exhaustive!
- Proven!

# Advantages and Disadvantages

- Advantages
  - Deep formal methods based code verification
  - Can formally prove that code is defect free and formally prove absolute existence of a defect
  - Sound technique ... identifies all potential failure points
- Disadvantages
  - Compute intensive, will take time to run
  - In practice limited to projects with <1 MLOC
  - If results are viewed conservatively, all potential defects must be reviewed

# Verifying Complex Handwritten Code



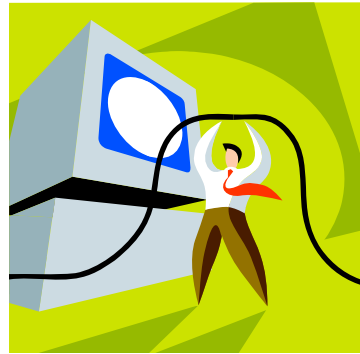
Tutorial Demo

- Identifying run-time errors (reds)
- Dead code (grays)
- Understanding potentially failing code (oranges)
- Analysis of multithreaded coded

# Range Violation Detection

- Some applications assume certain variable range
  - E.g. angle in degrees must be between 0 and 359
  - May simplify simulation and test
- What happens if range is violated?
- How to detect range violations exhaustively?

# Range Violation Detection

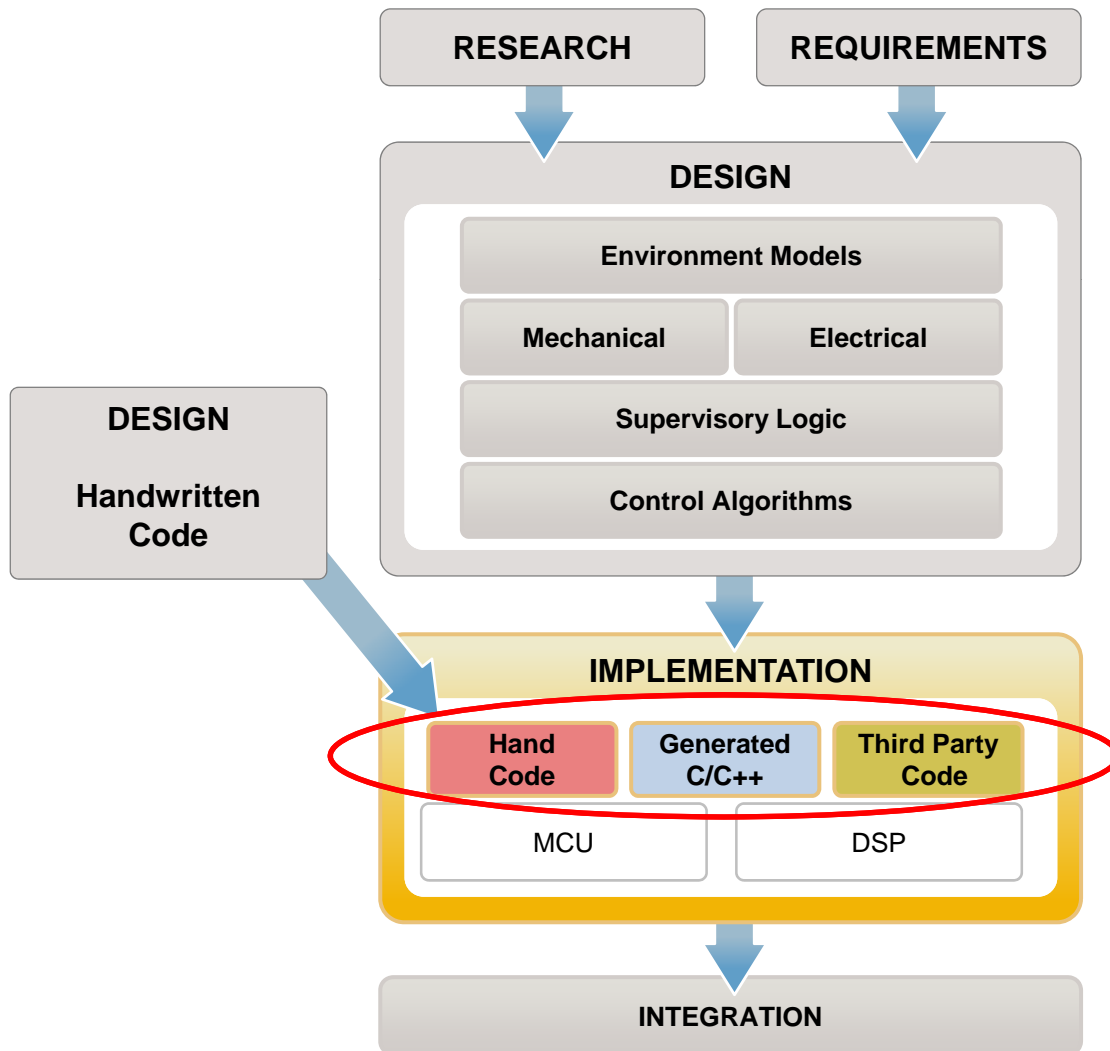


- Range violation detection

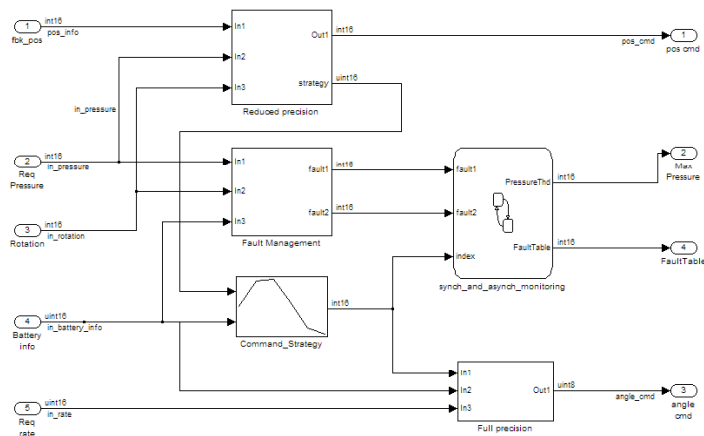
# Practical Considerations of Implementing and Verifying Complex Systems

**Context of automatic code generation from Model Based Design (MBD) and the reality of mixed model and code environments**

# Verification of a System



# Returning to our Engine Controller



Complex Algorithm

*Model + Code*



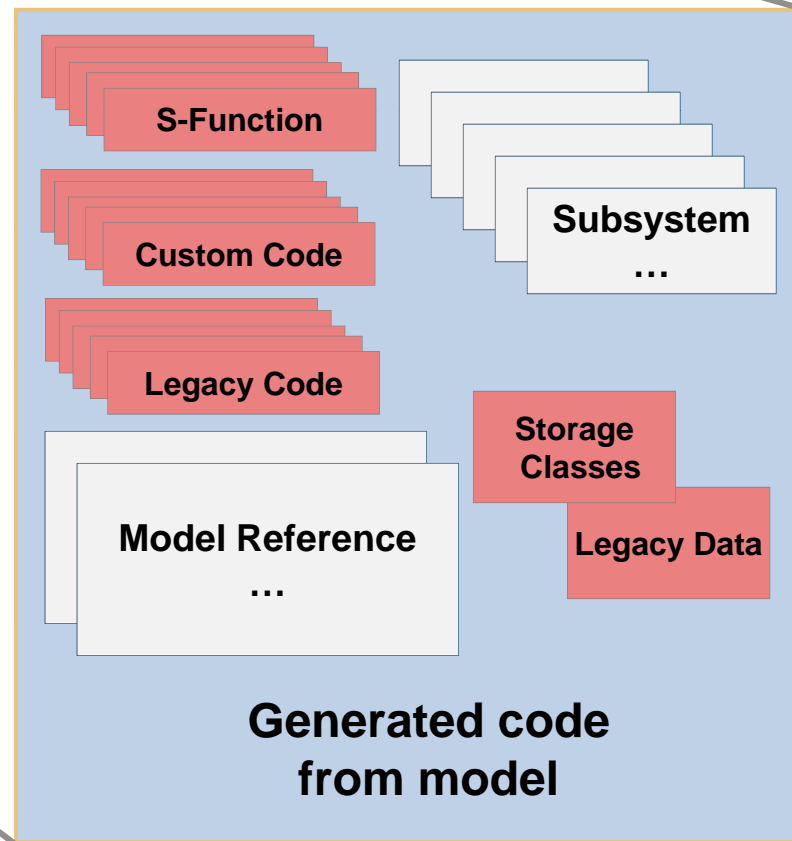
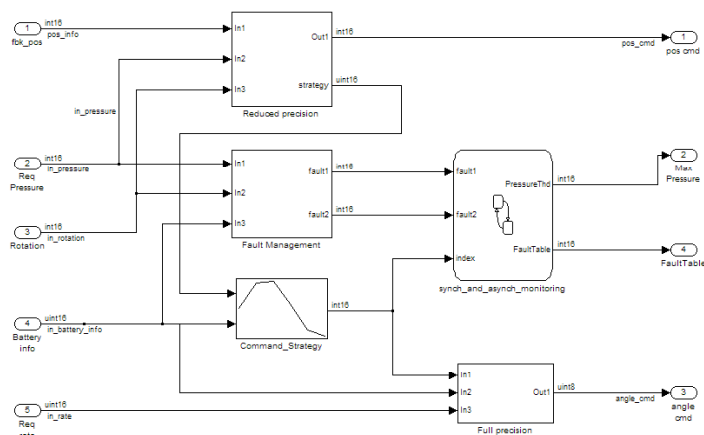
Embedded Controller

*Code*

Aircraft Engine

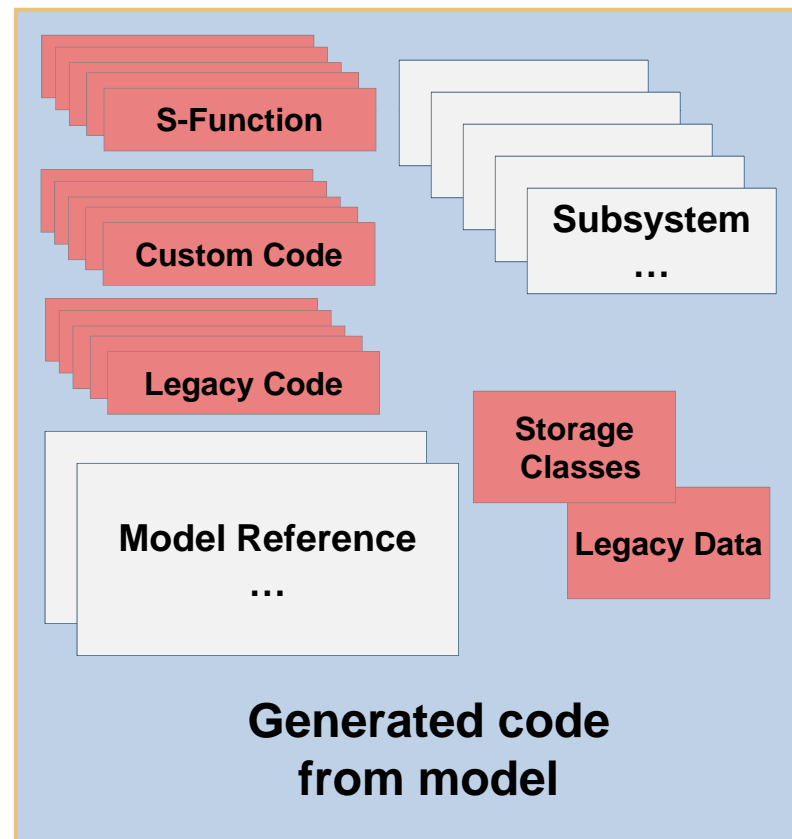


# Automatic Code Generation from Model



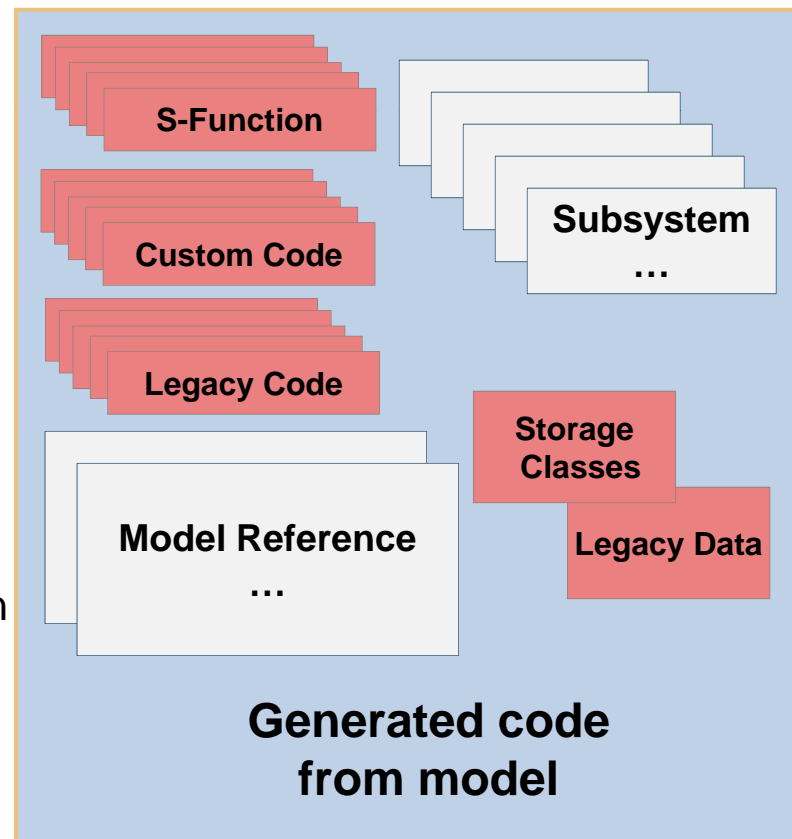
# Automatic Code Generation from Model

- Generated code consists of
  - Subsystems and model references
- Often includes handwritten code
  - S-Functions and legacy code
  - Individually, small in size (100s LOC)
  - May be automatically repeated many times within generated code



# Automatic Code Generation from Model

- Generated code consists of
  - Subsystems and model references
- Often includes handwritten code
  - S-Functions and legacy code
  - Individually, small in size (100s LOC)
  - May be automatically repeated many times within generated code
- Robustness issues to consider
  - Handwritten code fails, or causes generated code to fail
  - Generated code may cause handwritten code to fail (*Interface related failures*)
  - Handwritten code is not visible to modeling tools



# Integration of Generated Code



## Embedded Software

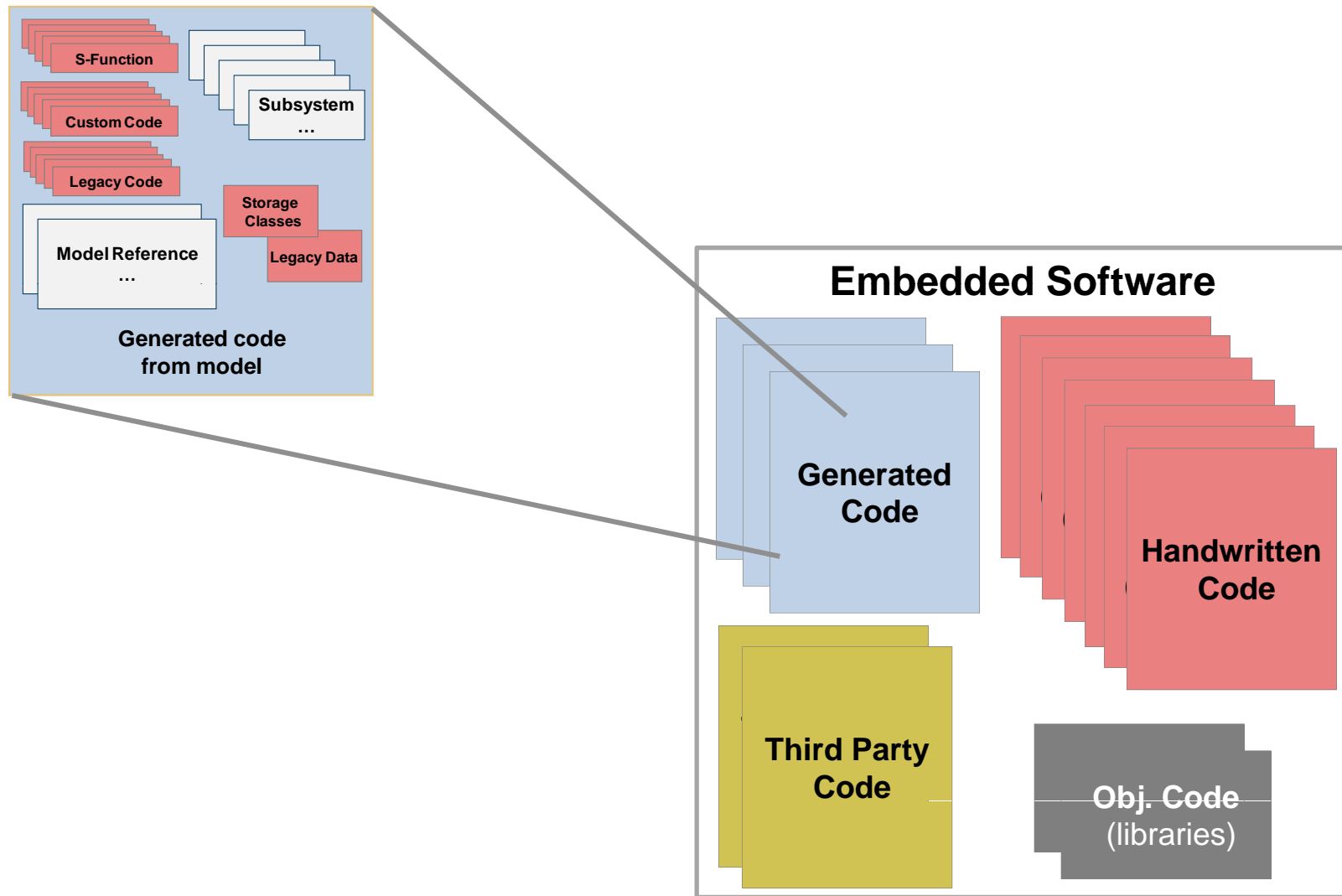
**Generated  
Code**

**Handwritten  
Code**

**Third Party  
Code**

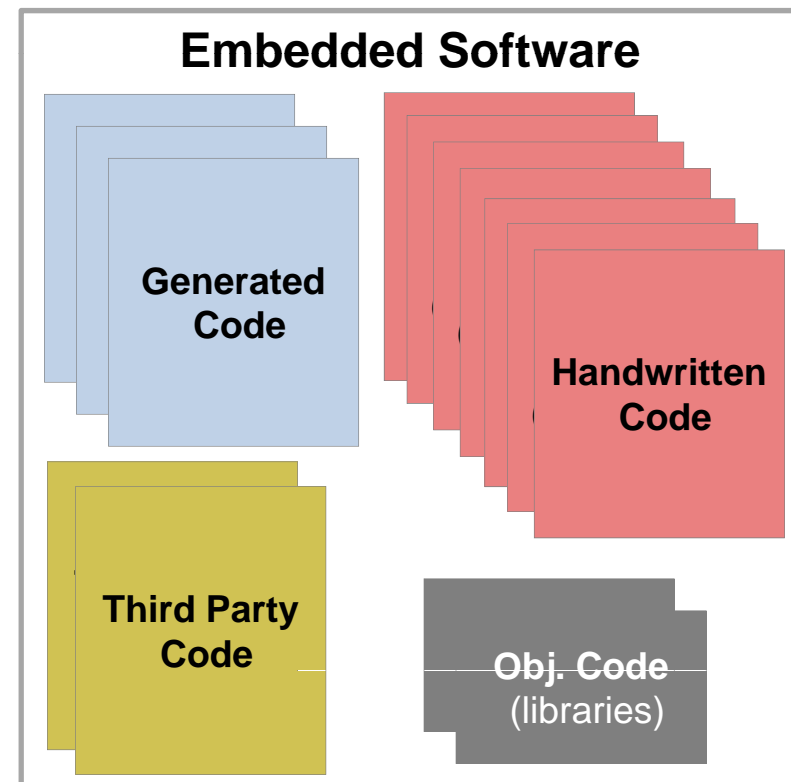
**Obj. Code  
(libraries)**

# Integration of Generated Code



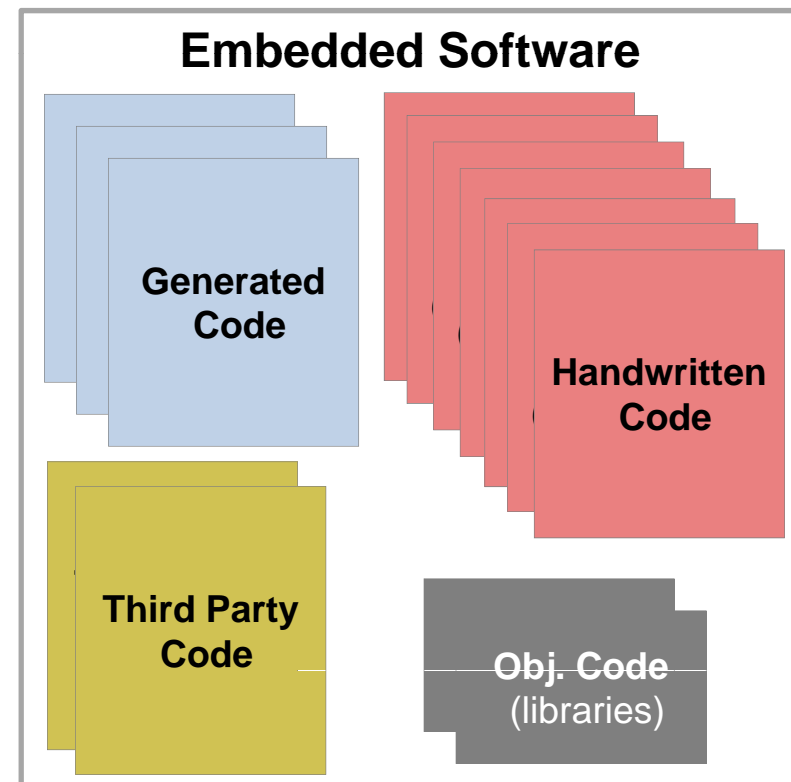
# Integration of Generated Code

- Code integration
  - Generated code stitched together with handwritten code
  - All components integrated with handwritten code

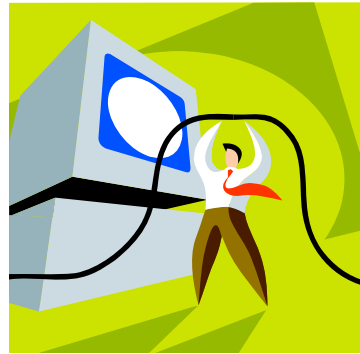


# Integration of Generated Code

- Code integration
  - Generated code stitched together with handwritten code
  - All components integrated with handwritten code
- Robustness issues to consider
  - Design error in the generated code
  - Runtime error in handwritten or 3<sup>rd</sup> party code
  - How do you ensure the entire system is robust?
  - How to verify generated code at interface level?



# Verification of Mixed Model and Code



Tutorial Demo

- Checking handwritten code in the models
- Verifying the generated code
- Verifying integrated code

# Additional Techniques for Improving Software Quality

**Getting near to zero defect goal**

# Enforce Code Standards

- C is a very flexible language
  - `char *****ptr;` is valid syntax
  - You can also write code without comments
- Are these good practices?
  - In general, NO
- Important to follow some code standards
  - Examples: MISRA C/C++, JSF++

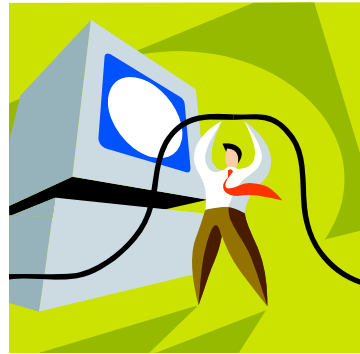
# Using Code Standards

- Example standards
  - MISRA (Motor Industry Software Reliability Association), developed for automotive, but used outside in other industries
  - JSF++ (Joint Strike Fighter Air Vehicle C++)
- Facilitate
  - Code safety, portability and reliability
- Code rules
  - Some required, others advisories
  - Various categories, such as style, environment, and run-time

# Example MISRA Rules

- Required
  - All object and function identifiers shall be declared before use
  - The right hand side of a "&&" or "||" operator shall not contain side effect
  - The statement forming the body of an "if", "else if", "else", "while", "do ... while", or "for" statement shall always be enclosed in braces
- Advisory
  - Should not directly use basic types such as char, int, float etc.
  - All declarations at file scope should be static where possible
  - Tests of a value against zero should be made explicit, unless the operand is effectively Boolean

# Applying Coding Standards



Tutorial Demo

- Application of MISRA C coding standards
- Measuring the improvement in quality

# Enabling Software Quality

- Ideal goal, create software with zero defects
- In reality, must have a quality mandate
  - Internally or required externally
  - To meet specific software quality objectives
- Define a quality model with objectives
  - Enables a prescriptive solution to achieve quality

# Runtime Defects in Software



**All  
Runtime  
Defects  
in Your  
Software**

- Software will contain runtime defects
  - Cannot eliminate all defects in one step
- Incremental processes are needed
  - Different quality objectives and levels
- Ex. quality model with objectives
  - Six levels, s/w quality objectives (SQO)
  - For intermediate development and verification stages

# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality



**All  
Runtime  
Defects  
in Your  
Software**

# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality

Eliminate some runtime defects



**Some  
Runtime  
Defects  
May Still  
Remain**

- By quantifying code verification results
  - Red, Gray, Orange
  - MISRA Rules
  - Code complexity metrics

# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality

## Software Quality Objectives #1

### SQO1

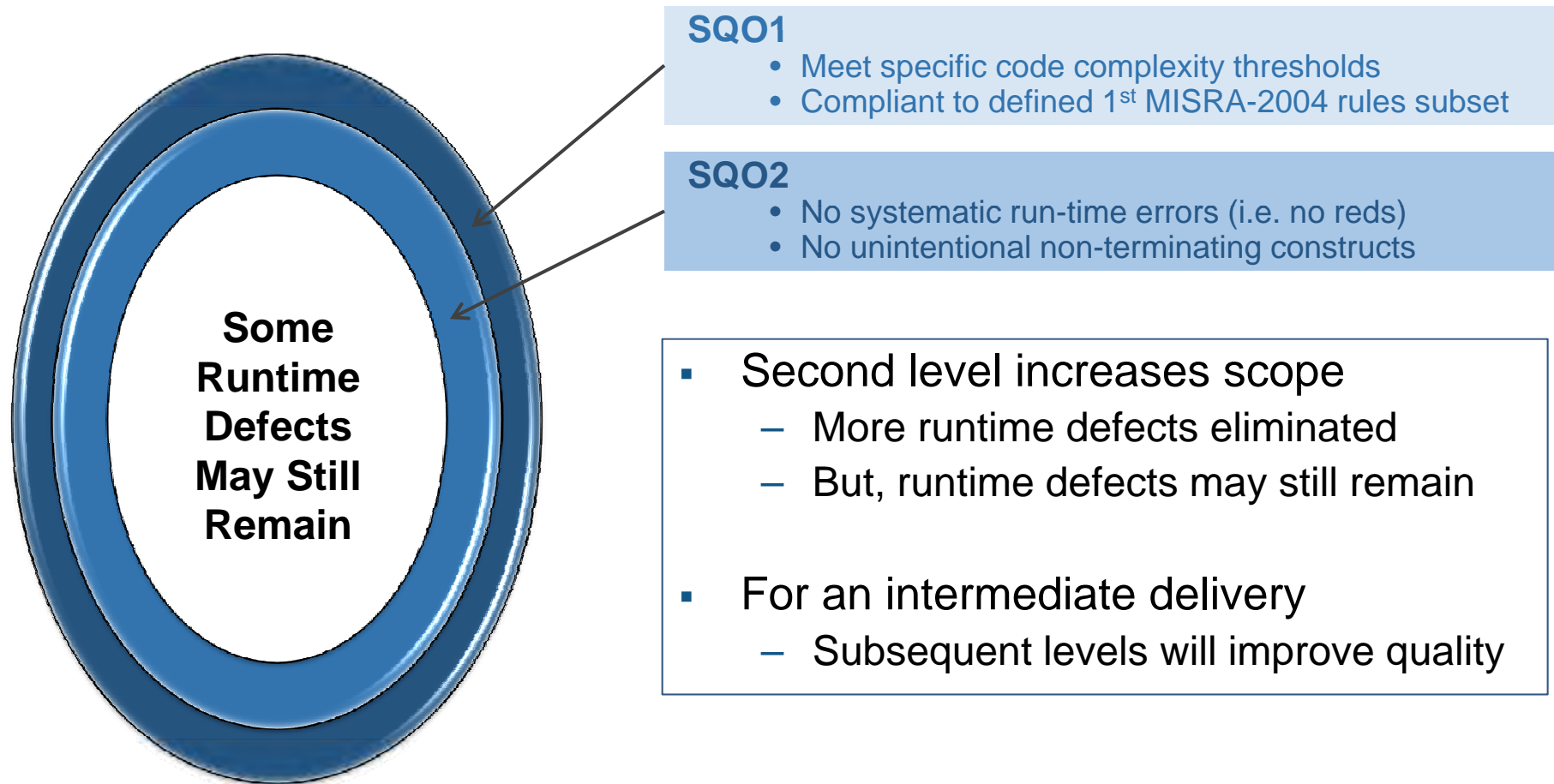
- Meet specific code complexity thresholds
- Compliant to defined 1<sup>st</sup> MISRA-2004 rules subset



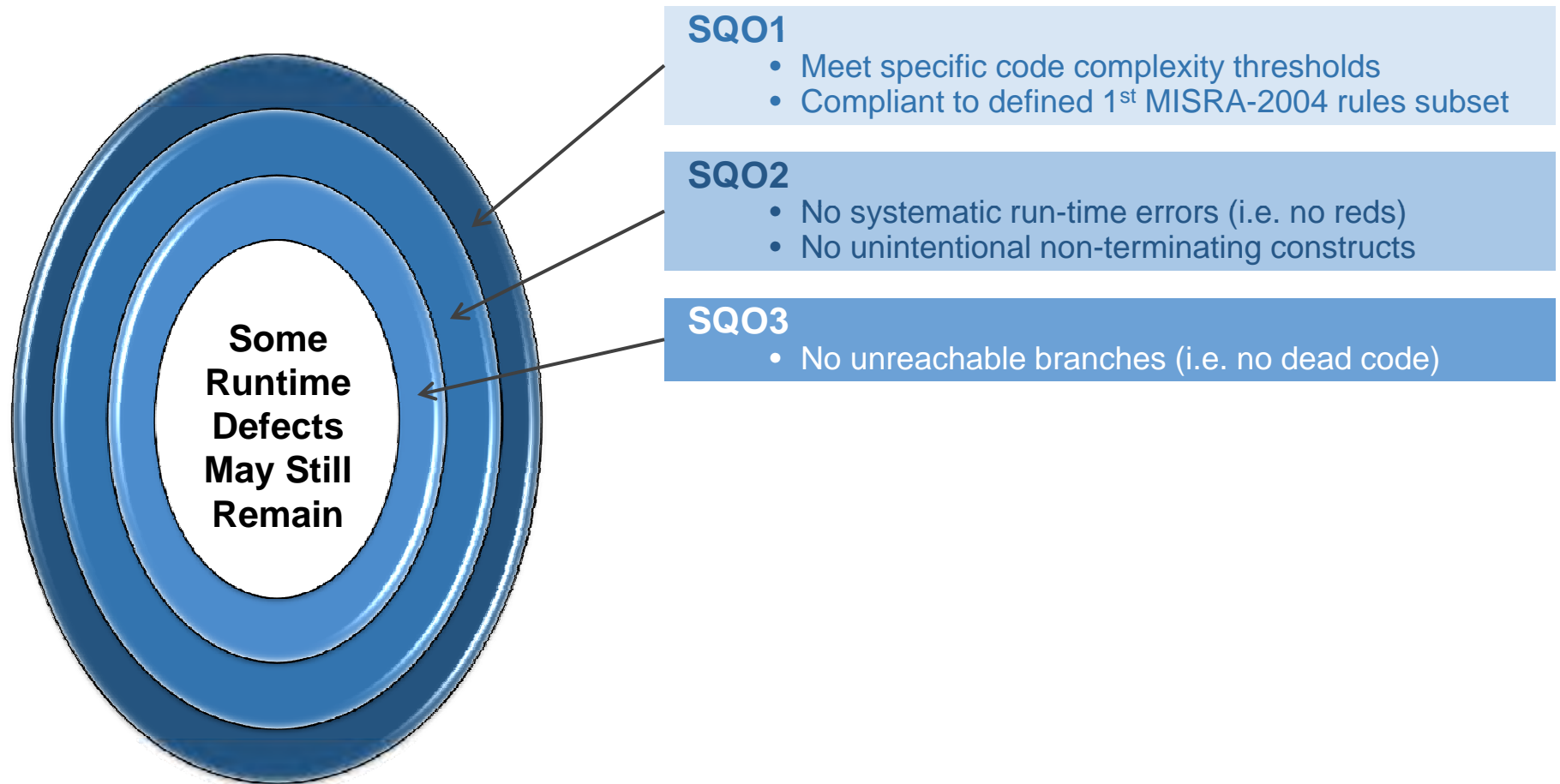
**Some  
Runtime  
Defects  
May Still  
Remain**

- First level has limited scope
  - Subsequent levels increase scope
  - Runtime defects may still remain in code

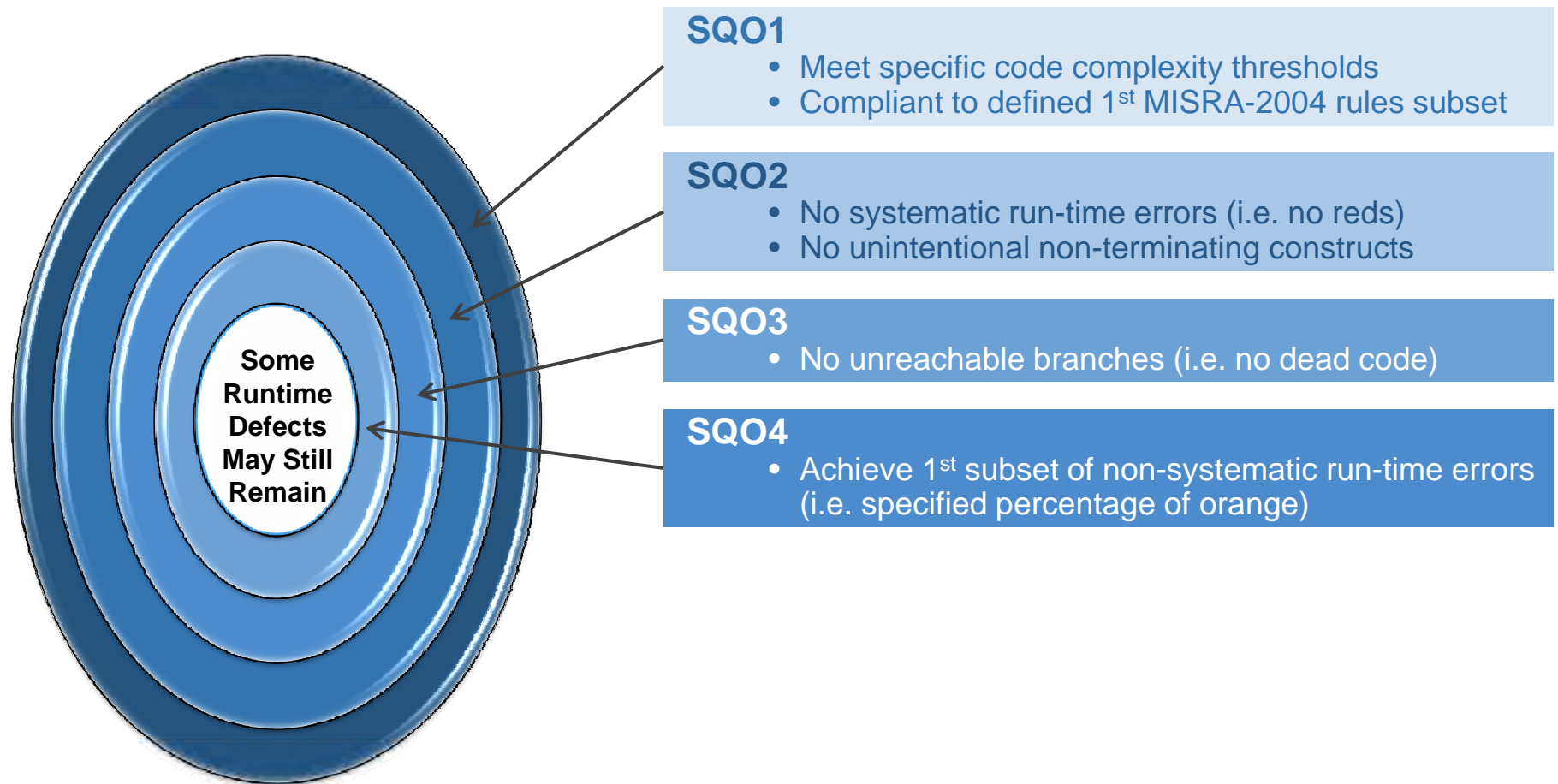
# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality



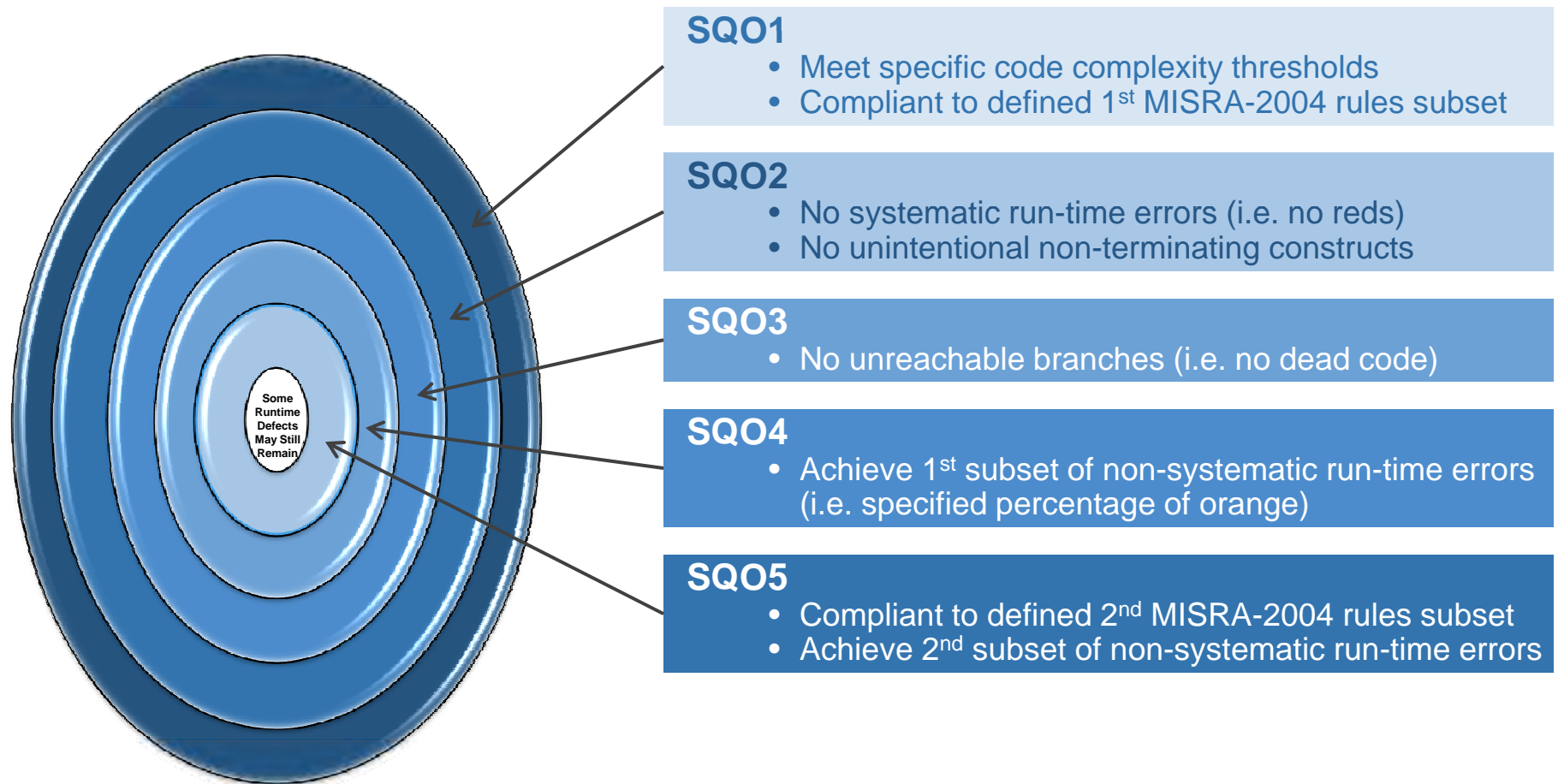
# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality



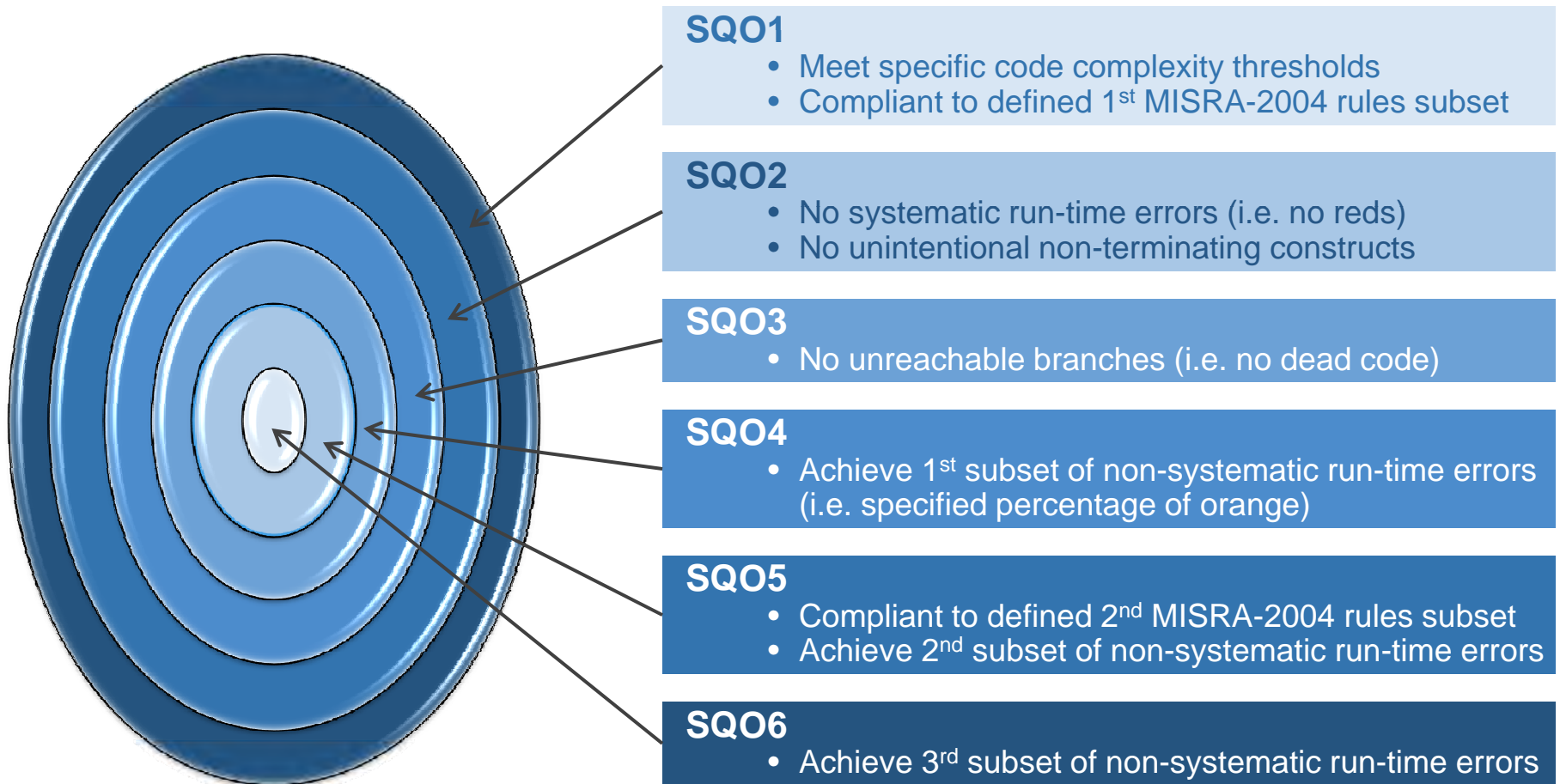
# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality



# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality



# Incremental Steps to Achieve Quality



# DO-178B Certification Credit with Verification Tools

- Partial credit for the following:
  - Table A-5
    - Ref. Section: 6.3.4b, 6.3.4c, 6.3.4d, 6.3.4f
  - Table A-6
    - Ref. Section: 6.4.2.1, 6.4.2.2, 6.4.3
- Next slide explain *6.3.4.b* and *6.3.4.f*

# Certification Credit for 6.3.4.b

- Objective
  - Compliance with the software architecture
  - The objective is to ensure that the Source Code matches the data flow and control flow defined in the software architecture
- How tools can be used
  - The data flow
    - Prove adherence to this aspect of the standard, as it automatically builds global data dictionary and identification of shared data reading and writing accesses
- Artifacts
  - Data dictionary, concurrent access graph, etc.

## Certification Credit 6.3.4.f

- Objective
  - Determine the consistency of the Source Code, including stack usage, fixed point arithmetic overflow and resolution, resource contention, worst-case execution timing, exception handling, use of uninitialized variables or constants, unused variables or constants, and data corruption due to task or interrupt conflicts
- Code verification helps to identify
  - Exhaustively: Fixed point arithmetic overflows, use of uninitialized variables and constants, etc.
  - Partially: Unused variables and constants
- Artifacts
  - Color coding to identify quality of code
  - Report generation for artifact purpose

# Conclusion

**Summary of tutorial**

# Adopting New Processes

## *Short Term*

- Detect and fix design and code errors
  - Unreachable states, dead logic, etc.
  - Fix code level run-time errors
- Simplify code review process
  - Take verification results to code review
- Develop better test-cases
  - Improve coverage analysis
  - Understand impact of variable ranges

# Adopting New Processes

## *Long Term*

- Make verification a part of your quality improvement process
  - Monitor quality and status
- Leverage verification for certification
  - Maybe possible to skip some processes
  - E.g. show code does not contain divide by zeros

# Conclusion

- Complexity of systems
  - Learn from past failures
- Model and code verification
  - Address design and code with error detection and proof
  - Use model verification to detect and fix design errors
  - Use code verification to detect and fix coding errors
- Practical considerations
  - Improve robustness in mixed model and code environments
- Additional techniques for improving software quality
  - Coding standards such as MISRA and JSF
  - Certification standards such as DO-178B
  - Achieving quality goals with software quality objectives

# Acronyms

- DSP – Digital Signal Processor
- JSF – Joint Strike Fighter
- KLOC – Thousands (K) of Lines of Code
- LOC – Lines of Code
- MBD – Model Based Design
- MCU – Micro Control Unit
- MISRA – Motor Industry Software Reliability Association
- MLOC – Millions of Lines of Code
- SW – Software
- SQO – Software Quality Objectives